WORLD / A28

Iran ready for US move in nuke dispute

ENTERTAINMENT / F1

Tight security at Oscar award rites in Hollywood

SPORTS / A29

We can beat China, says RP coach Reyes

LIFESTYLE / D1

'Word of Mouth' closes landmark CCP exhibit

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Monday, February 26, 2007 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 80 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

TV grab of Hope

Hope shows face, tells Kris she's sorry but ...

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

IS A BATTLE OF THE BULGE IN THE OFFING?

Yesterday, Hope Centeno, the beauty clinic receptionist who alleged that she had a 10-month affair with married basketball player

HOPE/ A22

Mayor Vi gives way in Batangas gov race

By Bayani San Diego Jr. *in Manila*
and Marlon Luistro
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LIPA CITY MAYOR VILMA SANTOS-RECTO SAID in a text message to the INQUIRER that she was not running for Batangas governor to give way to her brother-in-law, Vice Gov. Ricky Recto, in a contest against reelectionist Gov. Armando Sanchez.

MAYOR VI/ A22

GMA: No more Edsas

Education revolution as new people power

By Eugenia Duran Apostol
Founding Chair
Philippine Daily Inquirer

COMMENTARY

OVER A MILLION PEOPLE GATHered at Edsa 21 years ago to finally put an end to the Marcos dictatorship. During those historic four days, nothing was certain. Yet, people from all walks of life set aside their collective fear and gathered in peace and in prayer, armed only with the fervent hope that the future would be what they made of it.

The ensuing months brought bitter disappointment to those who felt that Edsa 1986 failed to achieve its noble ends. Others were even more pessimistic, prophesying inevitable—and potentially bloody—upheavals. A series of failed coup attempts, some comedic and others truly frightening, seemed to lend credence to their dark forebodings.

Still, there remained many among us who harbored an unflinching belief that our collective will—our People Power—would see us through what is called "interesting times" in a Chinese epithet.

In 1998, the sybaritic Joseph Estrada—oozing charisma from every fiber of his action star persona—rose to the presidency. He

EDUCATION/ A20

At last, a museum for rare courage

By Ceres Doyo

DEDICATED AND BLESSED ON Feb. 23 during the 21st People Power anniversary commemorations was the Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation's new P16-million Jovito R. Salonga building that houses a museum, archives and library, as well as a well-equipped Ambassador Alfonso T. Yuchengco auditorium and administration office.

Enshrined and resting here is the undying spirit of those who lived and died for the motherland; kept here are stories and images of uncommon courage that would serve to inspire generations of Filipinos to come.

The 1,000-square meter edifice in newly landscaped surroundings is an addition to the memorial center's soaring 45-foot bronze monument by sculptor Ed Castrillo, and the Wall of Remembrance on which more than a hundred names of martyrs and heroes who fought the 21-year Marcos dictatorship are etched.

The memorial center is beside the government-owned National

AT LAST/ A20

MAGKAISA PARA SA BANSA
Sama-sama, Kayang-Kaya
21st Anniversary Celebration

BALLOONS arranged in the form of the Philippine flag are released during the rites Sunday commemorating the 21st anniversary of the Edsa People Power revolt.

RYAN LIM

Urges use of people power to unite RP

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.
and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE WORLD WELcomed Edsa People Power I in 1986 and tolerated Edsa People Power II in 2001, but it will reject a third one, President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday on the 21st anniversary of the first people power revolt that toppled the Marcos regime.

On both occasions, the military had sided with the protesters.

"The world will not, however, forgive another Edsa but would instead condemn the Philippines as a country whose political system is hopelessly unstable and the Filipinos as among the finest people in the world but who always shoot themselves in the foot," Ms Arroyo said in her speech at the Edsa I anniversary celebration.

In contrast, she said that "when President [Fidel] Ramos came to Edsa on the first day of Edsa in 1986, and throughout those four days, especially when Cardinal Sin called upon the people to come and the people responded, the world embraced Edsa."

Hundreds of thousands of Filipinos, including priests and nuns, massed on Edsa in the heart of Metro Manila to protect mutinous soldiers from a convoy of tanks and troops loyal to Marcos.

Nuns and unarmed civilians holding rosaries and flowers knelt before the tanks to halt their advance in iconic images beamed by TV networks around the world.

Marcos, who ruled with an iron fist for 20 years, was forced to flee into exile in Hawaii, where

GMA: NO/ A20

Genuine Opposition's return to Plaza Miranda a big letdown

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

IN AN ATTEMPT TO DRAW INspiration from a hallowed tradition in Philippine politics, Plaza Miranda, the Genuine Opposition (GO) presented on Saturday its candidates for the Senate in a proclamation rally in what was once the heart of the legal opposition movement in rambunctious Philippine democracy.

Launching their campaign for the May 2007 election, opposition candidates pictured themselves as "watchdogs" and "fighters." The rally was more than a nostalgia trip. Prior to the declaration of martial law in September 1972, Plaza Miranda was the premier arena for public accountability of elected officials and governments.

The democratic test of worthiness for public office, before the plaza became the killing field of opposition leaders in the Aug. 21 1971, grenade bombing of the Liberal Party senatorial proclamation rally, was "Can it be defended in Plaza Miranda?" It was the ultimate test of accountability—directly before the sovereign people.

Plaza Miranda is the opposition's natural platform. On it, the opposition pilloried the sitting government and put it on the defensive—to account for its controversial policies and its failures, of which there are many.

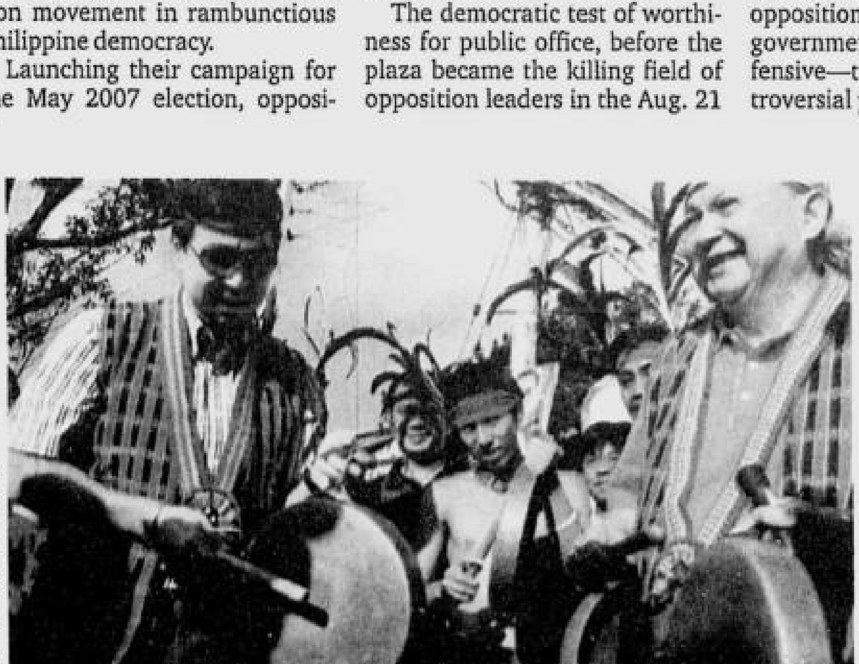
This is what the opposition tried to do when it revisited Plaza Miranda, but the rally was somewhat of a big letdown.

It lacked the fireworks of the pre-martial law rallies. The opposition launched its campaign with no fire in its belly.

This should be of public concern, given that there's so much at stake in the May election which will decide whether the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will retain its majority in the House of Representatives, whether it will regain its legitimacy to govern, eroded by the scandal of the Garcillano tapes in the 2004 election, and whether a change in the balance of power in Congress would lead to policy changes that would stop the unabated killings of several hundred political activists over the past six years.

The opposition candidates

GENUINE/ A21



CLANGING FOR VOTES

EV ESPIRITU/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Reelectionist Senators Ralph Recto and Joker Arroyo (right) join Kalinga "braves" during the parade of floats at Baguio's flower festival Sunday. Team Unity used the occasion to campaign for the May 14 polls. (*Story on Page A 9.*)

New ruling gives small mining firms big boost

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SMALL MINING FIRMS CAN NOW EXtract minerals in the country without production limits following a Malacañang ruling overturning a decision by the environment department to stop the operations of a Palawan mining firm for over-extraction.

In an order from the Office of the President, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said Presidential Decree No. 1899 (signed in 1984), which limits small-scale mining to 50,000 metric tons a year, had been amended by Republic Act No. 7076.

RA 7076, or the "People's Small Scale Mining Act of 1991," limits the exploration area to no more than 20 hectares.

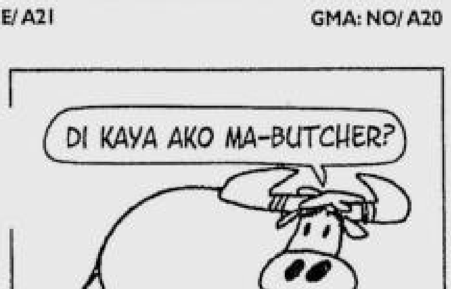
Ermita cited this provision in his order to Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes to allow Platinum Group Metals Corp. (PGMC), whose lawyer is Romela Bengzon, a close associate of Ermita, to resume its mining operations in Palawan.

Reyes suspended PGMC's environment compliance certificate on Sept. 25, 2006, because the firm had extracted 308,318 metric tons of nickel ore from June 2005 to June 2006, or more than six times the annual cap.

Ermita described Reyes' act as a "grave abuse of discretion."

An official of the Chamber of Mines, who requested anonymity, said Ermita's decision would encourage firms that applied for big mining projects at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to just go into small-scale min-

NEW RULING/ A22


DI KAYA AKO MA-BUTCHER?

Palparan eyes seat in Congress

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE Armed Forces of the Philippines is rooting for retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan in his bid for a seat in Congress so that the retired officer denounced by leftists as a "berdugo" (butcher) could continue his fight against the communists on

PALPARAN/ A22

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. Mindanao will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, INQUIRER RESEARCH/02/25/07 SOURCE PAGASA

New group seeks AFP officers' release

By Marlon Ramos
Inquirer Southern Luzon
and Christine O. Avendaño
in Manila

A NEW GROUP OF RESTIVE MILITARY OFFICERS yesterday sought the immediate release of over 100 detained military personnel involved in the February 2006 Marine standoff in Fort Bonifacio who, they said, were wrongfully accused of plotting a coup.

Calling itself Kawal Para sa Hustisya at Pagkakaisa (KHP), the group surfaced just three days before the first anniversary of the Marine standoff which authorities claimed was part of a plan to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The new group expressed its disgust over the supposed mishandling of the incident by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the military tribunal asked for a reinvestigation.

KHP called on President Arroyo and Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. to immediately release the detainees.

Among those they asked to be set free were former Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda, former Scout Ranger Regiment commandant Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and Col. Ariel Querubin, a decorated Marine officer.

But AFP spokesperson Lt. Col. Bartlolome Bacarro yesterday dismissed the group as "bogus," saying it was only out to sow intrigue in the military.

He noted that the soldiers were wearing US camouflage uniforms—something not part of the AFP wardrobe.

The soldiers, their faces covered, gave television interviews last Friday where they sought a thorough investigation of last year's alleged coup attempt.

They claimed that the military officers and soldiers who took part in the alleged power grab were victims of certain people and politicians, who continue to go scot-free.

Bacarro said the military had not received any information about or detected any destabilization moves or threats against the government.

"Wala kaming natanggap na report ... biglang sumulpot ito na parang kabute... (We didn't get any report on this group ... they just came up like mushrooms)," he said.

"This kind of groups crop up just to add pressure or destroy the image of the AFP," he said.

The INQUIRER was supposed to meet with the officers and other members of the KHP somewhere in southern Luzon. However, a problem with communications aborted the meeting.

A KHP spokesperson said the core group of KHP was made up of about 50 active enlisted personnel in the different branches of the AFP.

The group, however, assured the public that it was not planning a military uprising against the President.

"We just want a reinvestigation of the DOJ on the standoff. We just want the people, the President and the AFP chief of staff to know the truth," the spokesperson said.

The group said it firmly believed that Miranda and the other military officers who took part in the standoff had never planned a military takeover of the government.

He lamented that the DOJ investigation practically stopped when Miranda and the others were charged and subsequently imprisoned.

He noted that other civilian personalities who "benefited" from the standoff got off the hook. The officer, though, did not elaborate.

The spokesperson, who refused to be identified, said he and the other military men who took part in the standoff received a direct order on Feb. 26, 2006, "to march to Fort Bonifacio."

As soldiers, they just followed the order, he said.

"We were just abiding by direct orders from our senior officers. We were tasked to march (to Fort Bonifacio) that day. Then suddenly, something came up and we were caught in a fix," the spokesperson told the INQUIRER over the phone.

'Unexplained killings' more correct term, says defense official

By Christine O. Avendaño

WORDS CAN MAKE A WORLD OF a difference, as far as the defense and the military establishments are concerned.

To them, the brutal murders of journalists and political activists in the Philippines should be termed "unexplained killings" and not "extrajudicial killings."

Defense Undersecretary Ernesto Carolina yesterday claimed "unexplained killings" was a more appropriate term.

"You have a public that is not ignorant but educated and who understand what extrajudicial means and by using that term, they will have that perception that the killings were extrajudicial," said Carolina, a retired general who once was the No. 3 man in the military hierarchy.

When United Nations Special Rapporteur Philip Alston reported his initial findings on the killings of activists and journalists last week, he considered the use of the term "unexplained killings" by officials to be "inept and misleading."

"It (the term) may be appropriate in the context of judicial process but human rights inquiries are more broad-ranging and one does not have to wait for a court to secure a conviction before one can conclude that human rights violations are occurring," Alston said in his report.

"The term 'extrajudicial killings' which has a long pedigree is far more accurate and should be used," said the UN official, whose report did not sit well with the military.

International stage

One effect of the Alston probe was to bring the matter of political killings in the country to the international stage.

Alston said the military was almost in "total denial" of the killings and he had asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to persuade them to acknowledge the facts and take genuine steps to investigate the incidents.

The military countered that Alston was the one in denial because he did not accept its position that many of the killings were a result of internal fighting within the communist movement.

Carolina said the defense and military establishments preferred the term "unexplained killings" as this was the "correct term."

US Marines flee as RP, Abu Sayyaf forces clash

By Julie S. Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—THE fighting was apparently too close for the Americans' comfort.

Jolo Councilor Temojen Tulawie told the INQUIRER that United States Marines were working on a 4-kilometer road project in Barangay Buanza in Indanan, Sulu, when Filipino soldiers clashed with suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits at around 1:30 p.m. the other day.

"The American forces ran because the site of the encounter was only about two kilometers from where they were," Tulawie said.

The military confirmed the incident but said it happened too far from where US Marine forces were stationed.

Brig. Gen. Ruperto Pabustan, commander of the Joint Special Forces based in Sulu, said one Filipino soldier was wounded in the clash with a group suspected of being under Abu Sayyaf leader Doc Abu.

Pabustan said the security of the US forces was never compromised.

"The encounter was too far from where the Americans were. Definitely, it will not affect the Balikatan (exercises)," he said.

Pabustan said Doc Abu's group obviously suffered injuries, and even deaths, but he could not give any estimates.

Coordination with MNLF

He said the bandits withdrew when the military started using mortars.

"We are still conducting pursuit operations," he said.

Pabustan said the military had already coordinated with the Moro National Liberation Front to avoid a misencounter.

In the past, soldiers and MNLF units had clashed because of lack of coordination.

The latest was in January when at least eight MNLF men were killed in Indanan when soldiers running after the Abu Sayyaf mistook them for the enemy.

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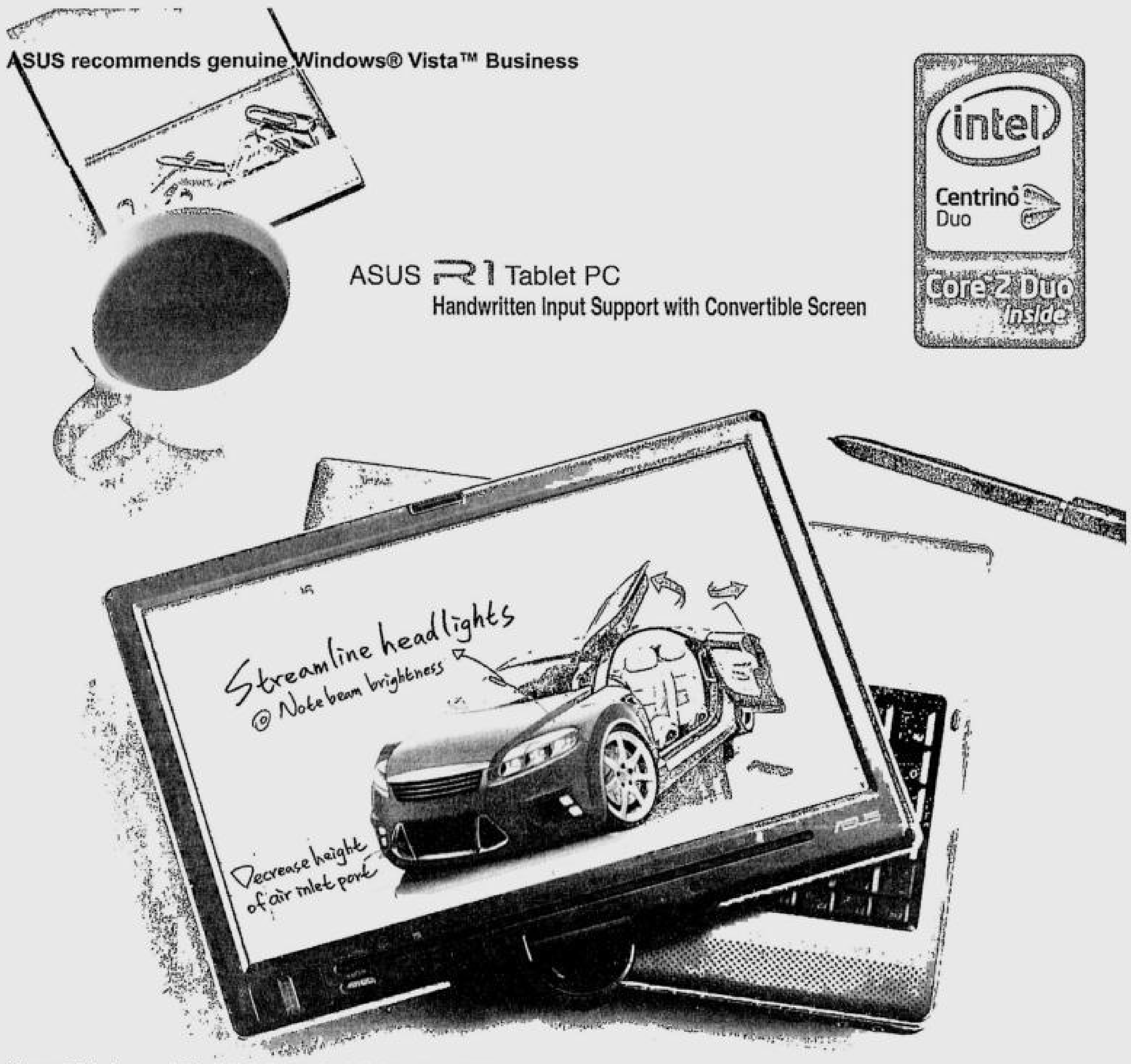

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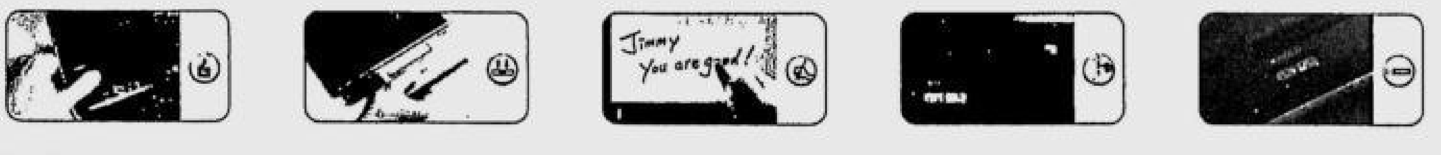

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NISSAN

Reporters seek end to killings

ON THE EVE OF THE SIXTH ANniversary of the first killing of a journalist in the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo, Reporters Sans Frontières (Reporters Without Borders) wrote her urging energetic measures to put an end to the impunity by which journalists in the Philippines are murdered.

Muhammad Yusop, who was killed on Feb. 24, 2001, was the first of 50 journalists, per the count of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, to be killed since Ms Arroyo became president.

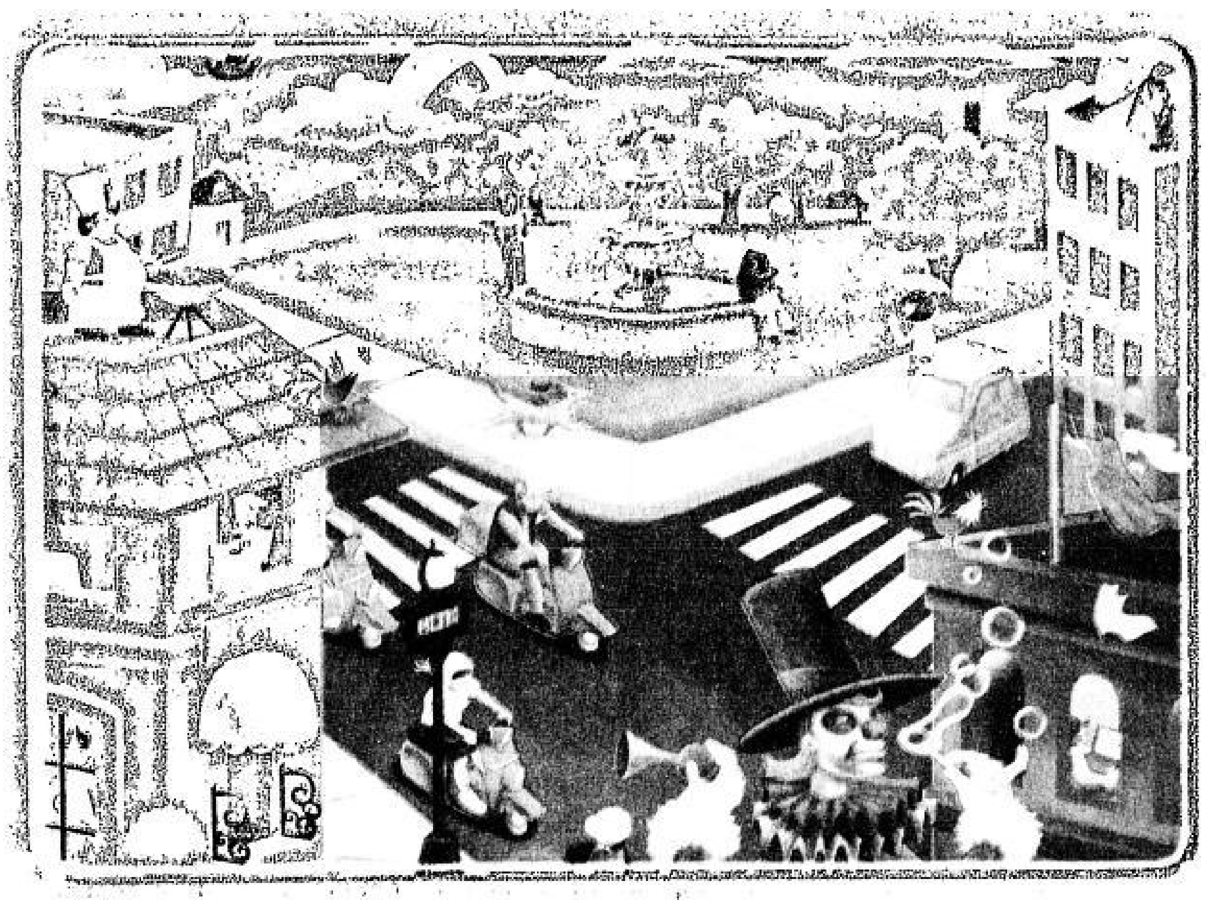
Reporters Without Borders also expressed its support for the National Day of Action against Impunity organized by the NUJP last Friday.

The anniversary coincided with the release of the Melo Commission report and the investigation conducted by United Nations Special Rapporteur Philip Alston, both of which pointed to the involvement of government security forces in the murders of journalists and political activists.

The RWB letter called on President Arroyo to rapidly take the steps that would stop the killings.

"We are convinced that the only way to consolidate the rule of law in the Philippines and to reinforce press freedom is to prosecute those responsible," the group said.

The NUJP, backed by more than 20 journalists' organizations in 14 countries, including Nepal, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Belgium, Norway, Australia and the United States, delivered protest letters to the government and the countries' consulates in the Philippines on Friday.



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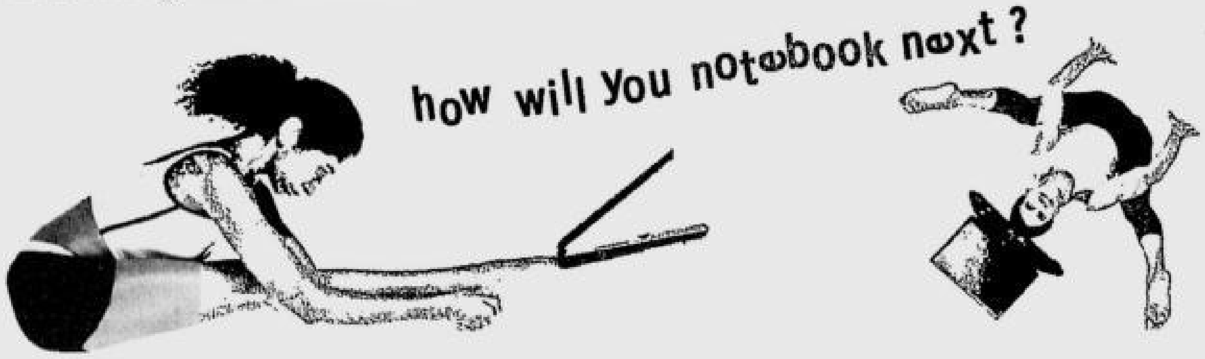
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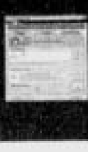

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Inquirer writer's brother dies

ERNESTO "BO" JIMENEZ JR., BROTHER OF INQUIRER columnist Rina Jimenez-David, died on Saturday following a heart attack. He was 60.

He is survived by his wife Coratec, children Coreen, Bengel and Jami, brother Fr. Boboy Jimenez, SVD, and sisters and brothers-in-law—aside from Rina and Pie David—Chona and Willy Cruz, Joni and German Tan Cardoso, and Charo Jimenez.

Jimenez, who was retired, had been a human resources specialist for several companies, including the Mandarin Hotel, General Milling and Monumento Plaza.

His remains lie in Chapel C, Christ the King Parish, Greenmeadows, Pasig City. The funeral Mass will be at the Christ the King Church on March 1 at 8 a.m. Cremation and burial will follow at Loyola Memorial Park Marikina.

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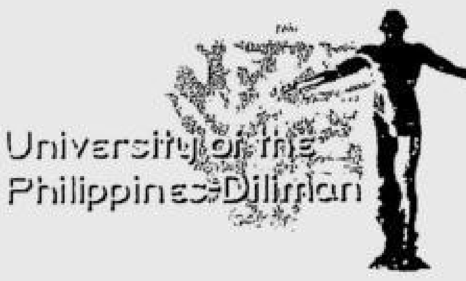

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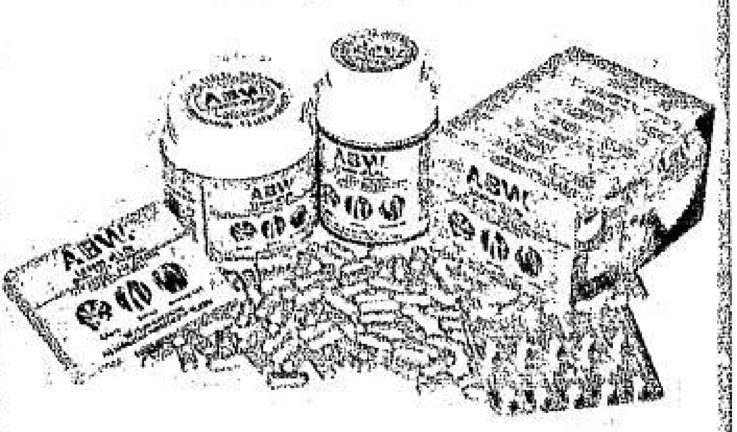
S. Korea tightens flight rules

THE SOUTH KOREAN government will implement stricter security guidelines beginning March 1 to control the quantity of liquids, gels and aerosols in carry-on bags of air travelers and transit passengers departing from that country.

The new guidelines were relayed by Philippine Ambassador to South Korea Susan Castrence to the Department of Foreign Affairs. The guidelines include:

- All liquids, gels and aerosols must be in 100 milliliters (100ml) containers or smaller.
- All containers of liquids, gels and aerosols must be placed in one-liter size, resealable or Zip-Loc type transparent plastic bags, approximately 20-cm by 20-cm in dimension.
- Each passenger is allowed only one resealable plastic bag.
- Liquids, gels and aerosols for medical purposes or for a baby such as formula, breast milk and other beverages are allowed.
- Liquids, gels and aerosols purchased at airport duty-free shops are allowed but they must be accompanied by receipts; they must be packed in a sealed transparent plastic bags (tamper-evident bags); the bags may be opened only when the passenger is on board the aircraft. *Cynthia D. Balana*



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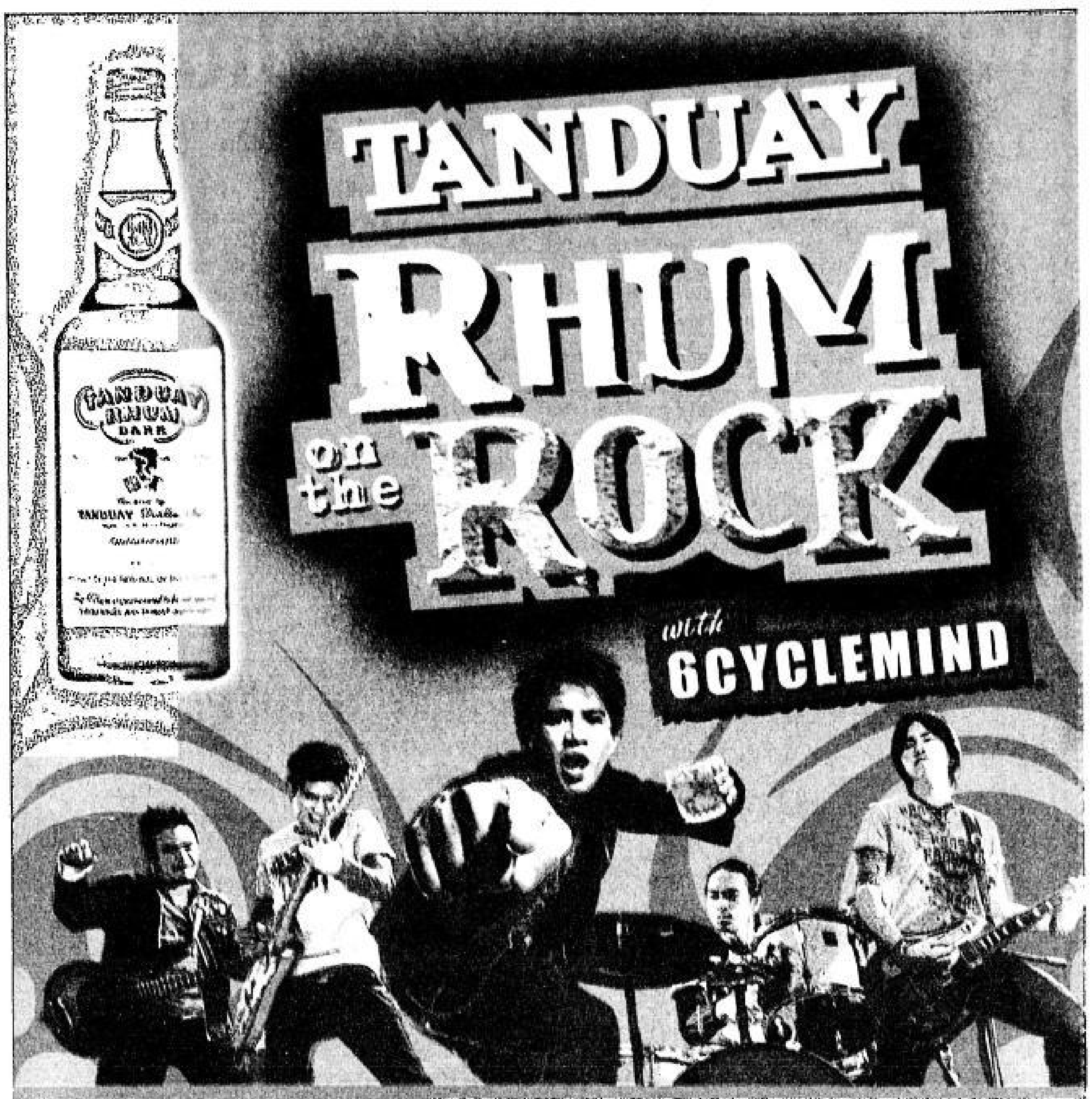

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Monday, February 26, 2007
1st Week of Lent

1st Reading: Lev 19:1-2, 11-18
Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus said to his disciples, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory with all his angels, he will sit on the throne of his Glory. All the nations will be brought before him, and as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, so will he do with them, placing the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

'The King will say to those on his right: 'Come, blessed of my Father! Take possession of the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world. For I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me into your house. I was naked and you clothed me. I was sick and you visited me. I was in prison and you came to see me.'

Then the good people will ask him: 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and give you food; thirsty and give you drink, or a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to see you?' The King will answer, 'Truly, I say to you: whenever you did this to these little ones who are my brothers and sisters, you did it to me.'

Then he will say to those on his left: 'Go, cursed people, out of my sight into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels! For I was hungry and you did not give me anything to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink; I was a stranger and you did not welcome me into your house; I was naked and you did not clothe me; I was sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

They, too, will ask: 'Lord, when did we see you hungry, thirsty, naked or a stranger, sick or in prison, and did not help you?' The King will answer them: 'Truly, I say to you: whatever you did not do for one of these little ones, you did not do for me.'

And these will go into eternal punishment, but the just to eternal life."

Commentary

We start from scratch: reviewing the commands of God. This version is a bit more specific than the ones we are used to—and each demands that we love our neighbor with all our heart/soul/mind/strength/resources, as we claim to love our God. It is time to look and see how our actions impinge on the community's struggle to believe and to obey the covenant with God. We start with what we are not to do. And then we listen to the words of Jesus and once again (we know all this stuff) continue with what we are supposed to do, especially for all those in most need. We are to practice the corporal works of mercy as a lifestyle, continuously, on our own and with each other. The Shepherd is separating out the sheep and goats—according to our behaviors, our actions, and our justice (love expressed in terms of sheer human need). We are being judged. If that judgment were today, which group would each of us fall into, and which group would our community, our church find itself in? It is time to choose whether we will know the blessing of God or God's curse.

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Without Baja, RP loses UN post

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE PHILIPPINES LOST AN IMPORTANT post in the United Nations after Ambassador Lauro Baja, the country's Permanent Representative to the UN, was recalled and replaced by former Chief Justice Hilario Davide over the weekend.

Baja was replaced as vice president of the Economic and Social Council (Ecosoc), a major organ of the UN, by Ambassador Kenzo Oshima, Japan's Permanent Representative to the UN.

Reports from New York quoted Ambassador Dalius Cekaulis of Lithuania, the current Ecosoc president, as having expressed his "extreme regret" over Baja's inability to continue his mandate.

In a letter to Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo on Feb. 4, Baja had asked that he be allowed to fulfill his mandate as Ecosoc vice president until at least a week after the crucial meeting of the council with the Bretton Woods Institutions in Washington on March 9.

Smooth and proper turnover

Baja said the deferment would enable him to make his usual farewell calls and accept traditional sendoffs which he had not been able to do because of the hectic meetings of the council in preparation of the Ecosoc sessions for 2007.

"The deferment will also ensure the smooth and proper turnover of responsibilities to my successor. The requested deferment is also within the customary 60-day period usually granted to reassigned personnel," Baja had written.

Romulo, however, rejected Baja's request, with the Department of Foreign Affairs issuing a statement defending the assumption of Davide to the and the recall of Baja as being both "legal and valid."

Wrong signal

But Filipinos working in the UN, led by Jessie Rose Mabutas, the highest-ranking Filipino in the world organization, were "aghast that the leadership of the DFA failed to appreciate the strategic value of the position, which had placed the Philippines in another competitive position after a widely acclaimed membership in the Security Council."

"The loss of the Ecosoc vice presidency sends the wrong signal and will erode the goodwill and respect the Philippines gained over the last four years," said Vivian Cruz, vice president of the Philippine Cultural Society in the UN.

A manifesto being circulated by Filipinos in the tri-state area (New York, New Jersey, Connecticut), a copy of which was furnished diplomatic reporters in the Philippines, said a similar manifesto had been sent to Romulo to no avail.

Root of all embarrassment

It said that at the time of Baja's reassignment, he was leading the negotiations with the Bretton Woods Institute, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and World Trade Organization for crucial meetings in March and April.

Diplomatic sources, who sought anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the subject, claimed Baja's success at the UN was the root of all the embarrassment being suffered by the Philippines in the world body.

They claimed Romulo suspected it was Baja who had leaked to the media in 2002 that the former was to be named Philippine ambassador to the US while the latter was to assume Romulo's post as foreign secretary.

Nonoy Mendoza of Pinoy Global News Online in New York said Romulo prevailed and remained the foreign secretary in spite of grumbling among DFA career diplomats.

Romulo has avoided regular interviews with local diplomatic reporters and foreign correspondents.

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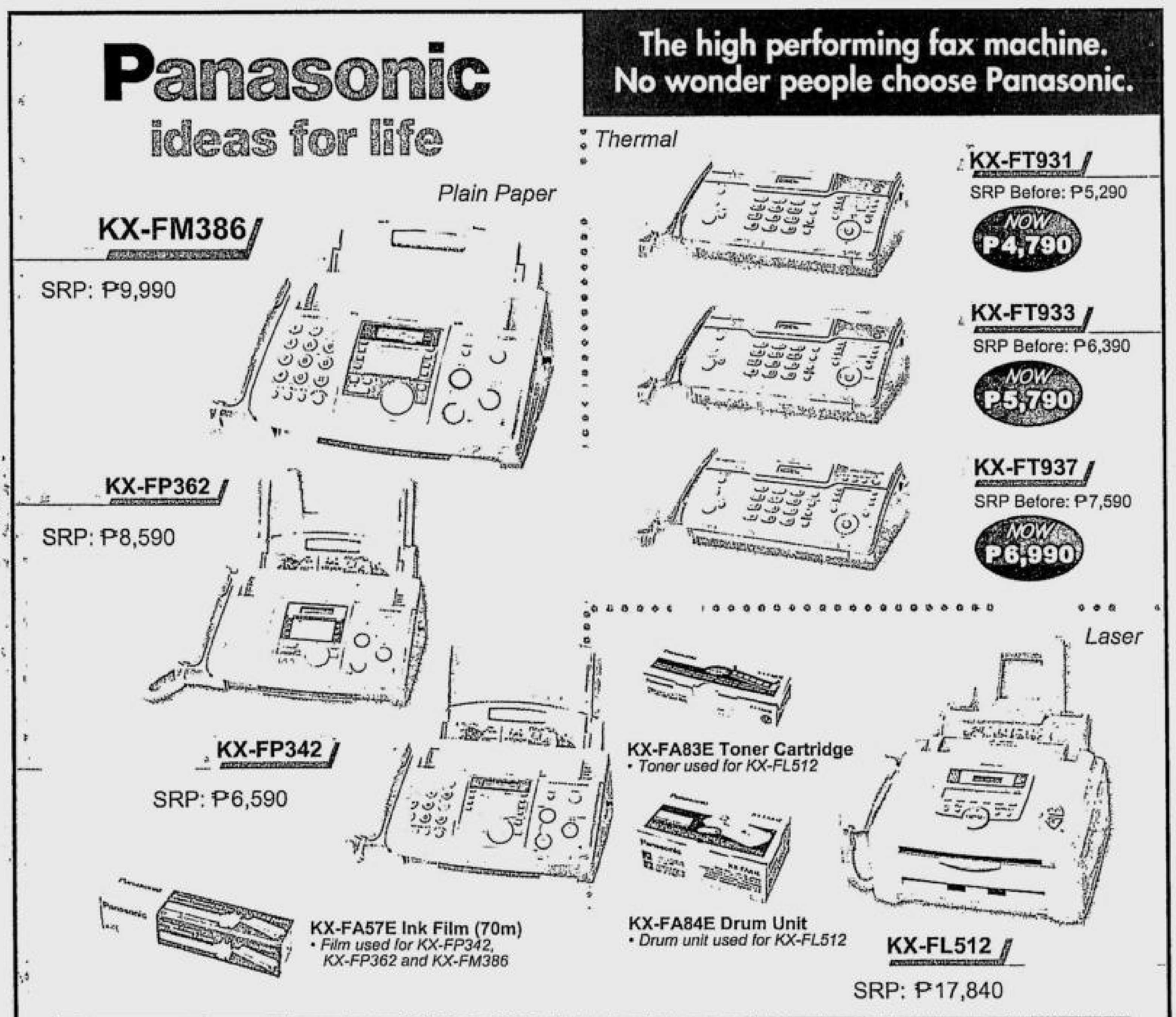

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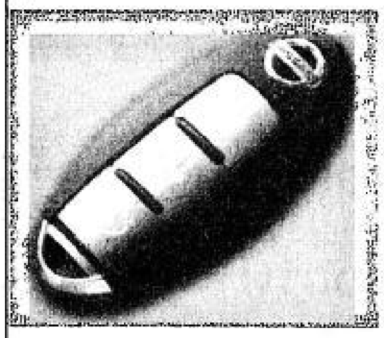

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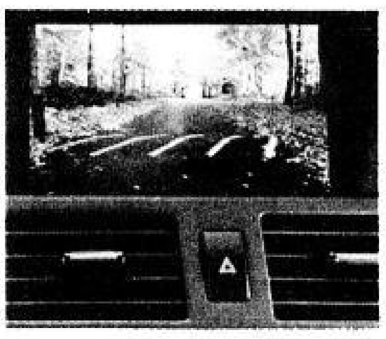

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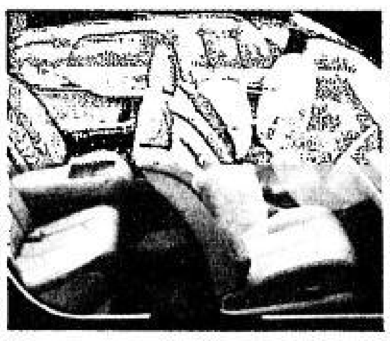

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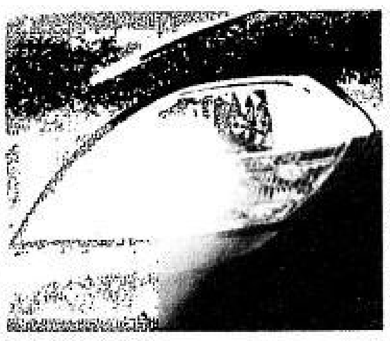

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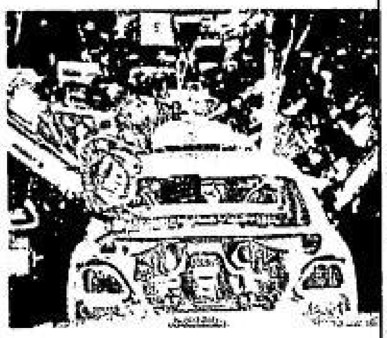

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Kiko said to be on way out of GO

By Norman Bordadora and Jocelyn R. Uy

REELECTIONIST SEN. FRANCIS "Kiko" Pangilinan will be junked by the Genuine Opposition in the wake of his non-attendance at GO's proclamation rally on Saturday, one of GO's senatorial candidates told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The decision on Pangilinan's fate was reached in a meeting before the proclamation rally Saturday afternoon after the Liberal Party senator made known on Friday his decision not to join GO's candidates at Plaza Miranda, the GO source said.

The source, who refused to be identified for lack of authority to speak on the issue, said Pangilinan would not be replaced by another candidate.

"He will be kicked out. (There will be) no replacement," the GO candidate said in a text message.

Reached for comment, detained former President Joseph Estrada yesterday said that GO would have nothing to lose if its leaders decided to drop Pangilinan from the slate.

But he stressed that this was just his personal opinion and that GO's executive board composed of former Sen. John Osmeña and United Opposition president and Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay, among others, would have the final say.

"If he (Pangilinan) really doesn't want to join us, what can we do?" Estrada said, adding that unlike other opposition candidates, Pangilinan never paid him a visit at his Tanay, Rizal, rest house before the campaign began.

Pangilinan, a guest candidate, was a no-show at the GO proclamation rally at Plaza Miranda. But Senate President Manny Villar, also a GO guest candidate, arrived three hours after the rally began.

Estrada, however, said he was confident that Villar would stick with the slate.

"He was there at the proclamation rally last night (Saturday) so I don't think he will have second thoughts (if Pangilinan will be dropped from the ticket)," he told the INQUIRER.

Both Villar and Pangilinan belong to the Wednesday group at the Senate which includes Sen. Joker Arroyo and Ralph Recto who both opted to run under the administration's Team Unity ticket.

At GO's proclamation rally, none of the candidates and speakers mentioned Pangilinan's name during the program. Only his banners were there to show he was part of the slate.

Pangilinan is a member of the Liberal Party wing led by Sen. Franklin Drilon.

"There really is no effect on the coalition. If at all, he will only be one who will be the affected. As for the LP, we will still have (Tarlac Rep.) Noynoy Aquino on our slate. So with Villar," the GO source said.

The source said that members of the GO executive council would make the formal announcement and would also explain why there would be no replacement for Pangilinan.

Sorsogon Rep. Francis Escudero, House minority leader and one of GO's leading senatorial candidates, said it was possible Pangilinan would be left out of the slate.

THE SENATORIAL candidates of the Ang Kapatiran party were proclaimed at a rally and fund-raiser at Club Filipino. They are, from left, Adrian Sison, Dr. Martin Bautista and Zosimo Paredes. JOAN BONDOC

Ang Kapatiran raises funds in a small way

By Christian V. Esguerra

DOWN TO HIS LAST centavo and leaving just enough for his trip back home, a laborer from Cavite dropped P50 into the basket that was passed around a Club Filipino gathering in San Juan last Saturday. So did another worker, a resident of Rizal, who shelled out P20. A student from a Catholic school donated P100, probably a part of his week's allowance.

With contributions as low as 25 centavos coming in, it looked more like Sunday Mass at some poor parish.

The gathering was actually the proclamation of the senatorial lineup of the Ang Kapatiran party, a Christian lay group that seeks "to bring back sense and God in Philippine elections and politics."

The P72,129.25 raised that morning definitely won't win an election, particularly for the doctor and two lawyers going up against more popular and moneyed candidates, said organizers.

But they said the sincerity and spontaneity of the effort were more than enough to convince them that their unique campaign had begun to gather steam.

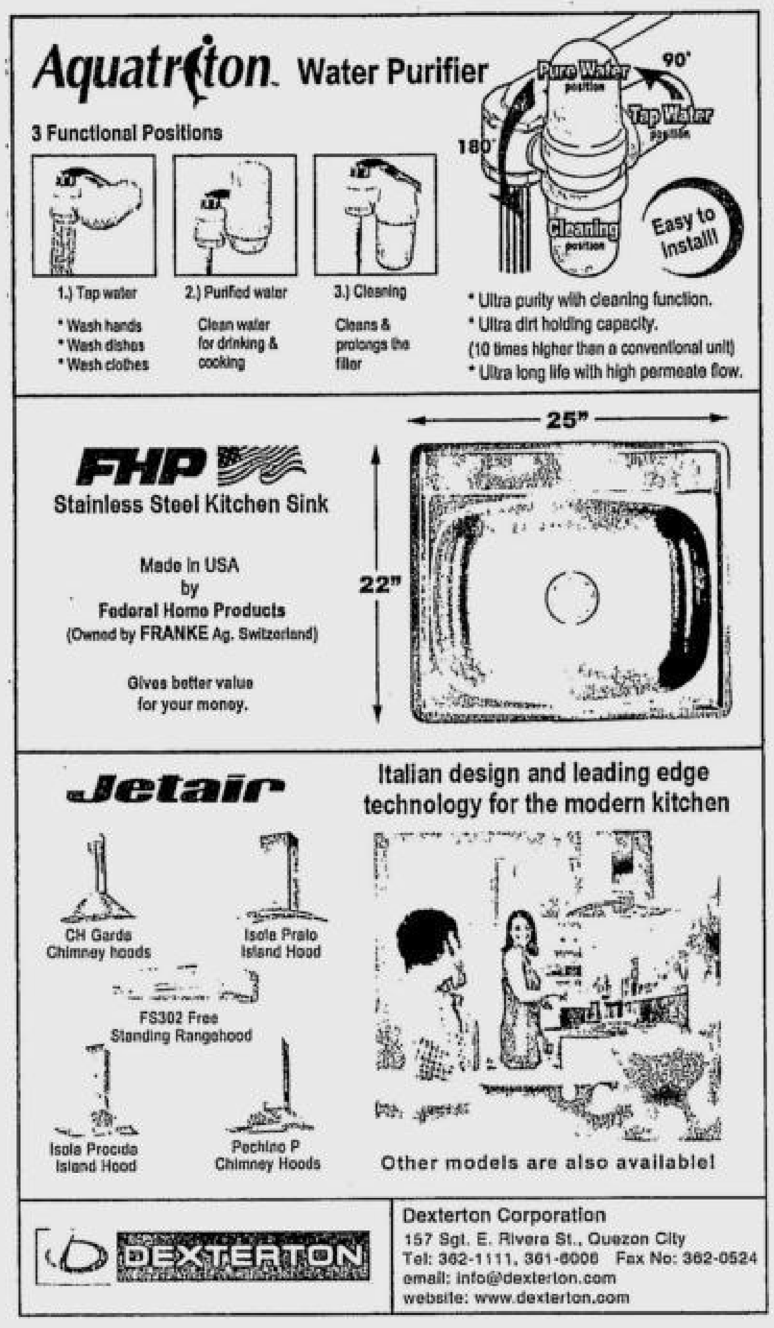
"We call it contributions for the cause of change," Kapatiran treasurer Rene H. Peronilla, a veteran in the banking industry, told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The party launched a program called "Alay ng Pamilya sa Paglilinis ng Pulitika," a fund-raiser for the campaign of its senatorial aspirants—Dr. Martin Bautista and lawyers Zosimo Paredes and Adrian Sison.

Peronilla said the goal was to retire the established practice of sourcing campaign funds from hefty contributions, which in turn put candidates under a debt of gratitude to contributors.

"In our case, we want the people to run our candidates' campaign," he said. "This way, they won't feel any burden of giving back anything to specific individuals. They can then decide independently for the common good."

The crowd, estimated at 600, came from far-flung provinces like La Union, Ilocos Norte, Bataan and Pangasinan.



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Team Unity, other bets take campaign to Baguio City

BAGUIO CITY—THIS YEAR'S FLOWER FESTIVAL in this city yesterday became the backdrop for a contest between senatorial candidates of the administration Team Unity and a couple of politicians from the opposition who tried to outdo each other in their bid to win the people's votes during the festival's parade of floats.

People had expected the administration candidates to participate in the street-dancing event held Saturday following the organizers' announcement that the politicians were likely to swing and sway with the revelers. But they failed to show up because of their prolonged stay in Pangasinan.

They showed up on Sunday, complete with a coterie of supporters that they brought along and enough campaign material to plaster every available space in this summer capital.

Waving and cheering like eager beauty pageant contestants, reelectionist Senators Ralph Recto and Edgardo Angara, Governors Luis "Chavit" Singson (Ilocos Sur) and Vicente Magsaysay (Zambales), Bukidnon Rep. Miguel Zubiri, former Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta, actor Cesar Montano and Sultan Jamalul Kiram III rode together on one float.

On horseback

The float was donated by Baguio Rep. Mauricio Domogan and other Cordillera representatives, they said.

As the parade moved along Session Road, Magsaysay alighted from the float and mounted a horse. Former Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor, also on horseback, later joined the parade.

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay waved to the crowd from another float. A blue helicopter with Pichay's name on its side hovered over the floats.

He said the float and the helicopter were provided by a friend.

Though they were in the city on Sunday, Sen. Joker Arroyo and former Sen. Vicente "Tito" Sotto III elected not to join the parade.

However, Senate President Manuel Villar, a guest candidate of the Genuine Opposition, walked several floats behind the administration's candidates along with his campaign volunteers, with loudspeakers blaring his campaign jingle.

He was joined by Rep. Joel Villanueva of the party-list group Cibac.

Broke festival guidelines

Many spectators approached Villar and asked to pose with him for photographs. He often stopped to chat with the people and shake their hands.

All the candidates broke festival guidelines when they started throwing campaign giveaways from their floats. But Zubiri said they stopped after they were reminded of the festival rules.

"I think [the festival] is the time when people converge and when politicians take advantage of the situation [but] what is important is that it was tastefully done. If what we presented was ugly, it would have been detrimental to the candidates," Zubiri said in a press conference held afterwards.

He claimed that 80 percent of the festival audience appreciated their presence and only 20 percent disapproved.

But some tourists said the presence of the politicians disrupted the flow of the parade because people wanting to have their pictures taken with candidates spilled out onto the streets.

"We are here to enjoy the parade, not to see these politicians. Politics should not be mixed with the festival. But what can we do? We cannot ask them to leave," said a woman from Caloocan City, who said she and her family had been going up to Baguio for the annual festival since 2004.

Reports from Vincent Cabreza, Robert Abaño, Marie Antonette Mayuyo, Joyce Quezada and Sweden Bogñalbal, Inquirer Northern Luzon

AFP: Pullout of Estrada guards 'honest mistake'

ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP) Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. said yesterday the pullout of soldiers from the security detail of detained President Joseph Estrada was an "honest mistake."

The 15 soldiers have since been returned to Estrada's residence in Tanay, Rizal, the military said.

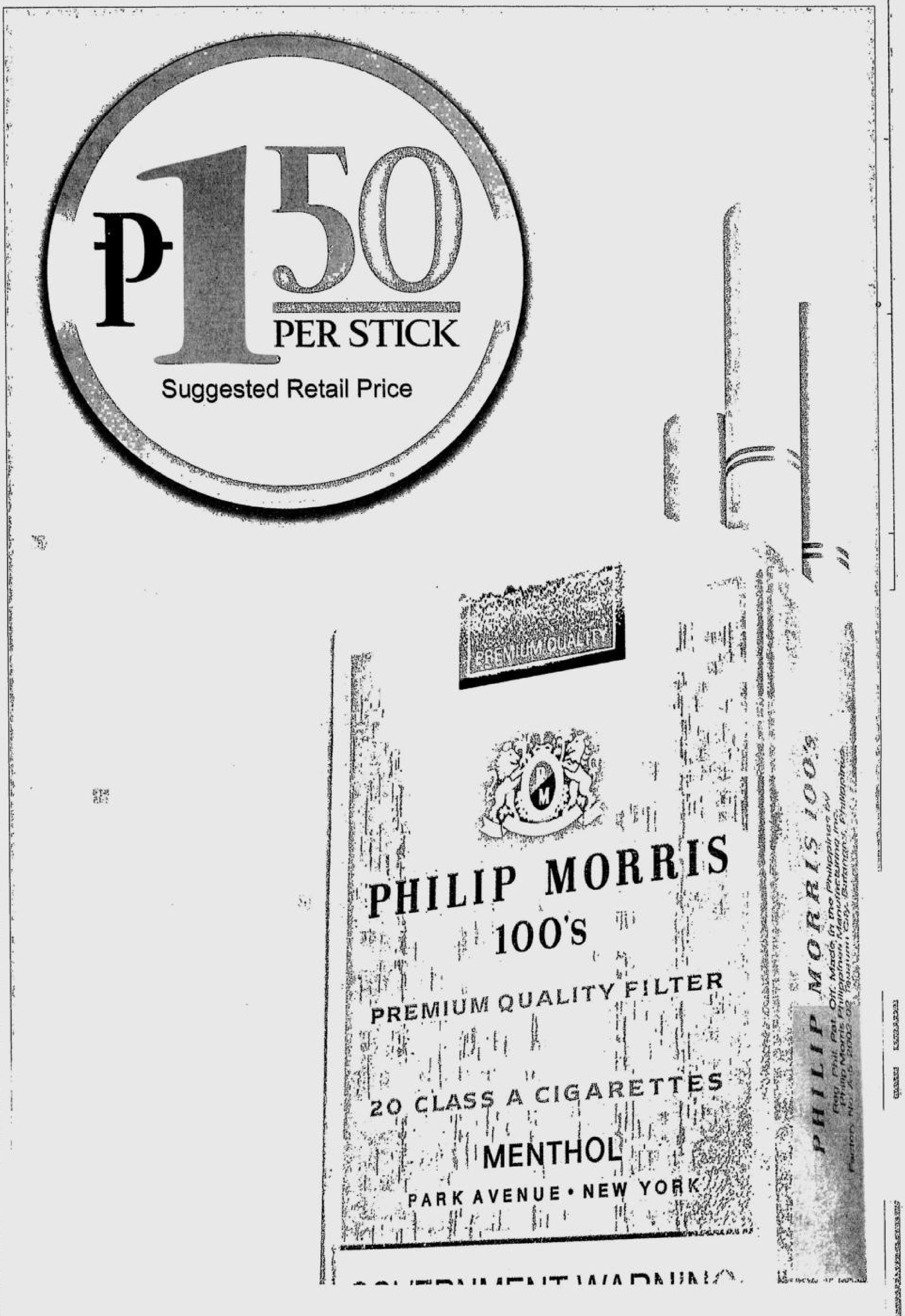
Esperon told reporters the military on its own had ordered the soldiers to return to guarding Estrada "because it was an honest mistake on the part of the security."

He said the matter of recalling soldiers in Estrada's security detail "every now and then is routine (because) they are really asked to make reports."

Esperon said the military personnel were recalled to update them on election matters and other current issues.

"They get recalled, they are given lectures and then they are released again so that they know what they are doing in the field. They are not there just to secure the VIP or to make themselves look good before that VIP," said Esperon.

Military spokesperson Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro explained that the pullout was part of a general recall order to all military security personnel detailed with VIPs. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Christine O. Avendaño*



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Congress clears sale of PTIC shares in PLDT

THE HOUSE OF REPresentatives has cleared the sale of the sequestered Philippine Telecommunications Investment Corp. shares in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. to a Hong Kong-based company, a member of the House committee on good government said over the weekend.

In a statement, Ilocos Sur Rep. Salacnib Baterina said the House in plenary approved the House committee on good government report that declared the government's sale of the P25 billion worth of PTIC shares in PLDT as "valid and gainful."

The committee report was endorsed by 34 congressmen and promptly adopted by the House on the second day of its special session on Feb. 20.

The House committee earlier conducted an investigation into the sale of the government's minority interest in PTIC, a holding firm that owns 13.85 percent of PLDT.

Lawful

The government's noncontrolling equity in PTIC is equivalent to a 6.38-percent stake in the telecommunications firm.

"All premises considered, the sale of the government's equity in PTIC is lawful, and has substantially complied with prescribed procedures," the report declared.

Based on the testimonies and documents submitted to the good government committee, the report determined that "the sale of the PTIC shares at P25.2 billion is fair and reasonable, and will be beneficial and not disadvantageous to government."

The report also said the sale was aboveboard. "Transparency was observed throughout the bidding process. The auction was directed in conformity with existing legal procedures, and with due diligence, without any apparent abuse or neglect on the part of the designated selling agencies," the report said.

Verdict

The House also affirmed a previous Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) verdict that despite the sale of the PTIC shares, PLDT would remain a largely Filipino-owned public utility.

First Pacific Co. of Hong Kong, through its local subsidiary, acquired the PTIC shares and would fully own PTIC once the transaction is completed. First Pacific already has a controlling stake in PTIC.

According to the report, the sale of the PTIC shares to First Pacific "will not violate the constitutional restriction on foreign ownership of a public utility, as PTIC owns only 13.84 percent of PLDT's common stock."

The sale of the PTIC shares is expected to close on March 2.

First Pacific paid 50 percent of the total $521 million price for the shares when it signed a preliminary share purchase agreement with the government on Feb. 14.

Norman Bordadora

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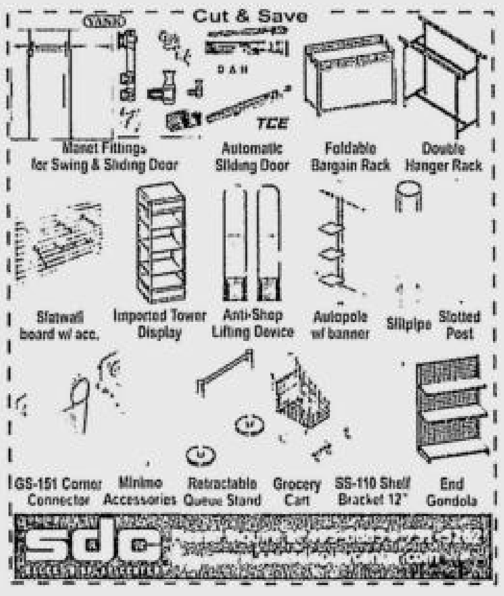

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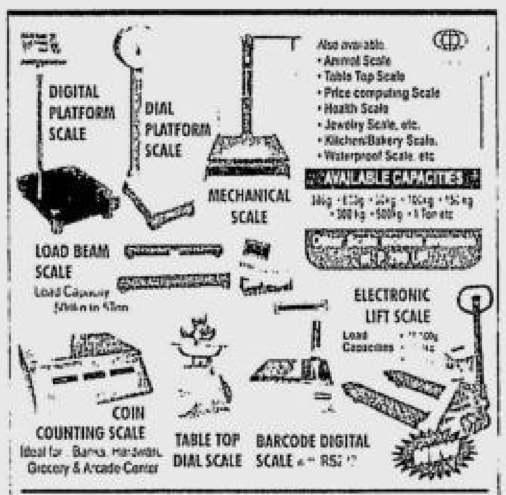

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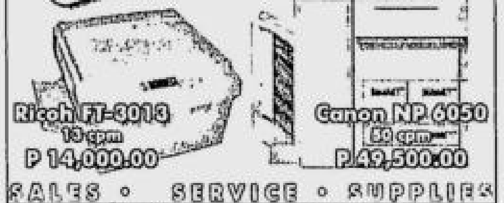

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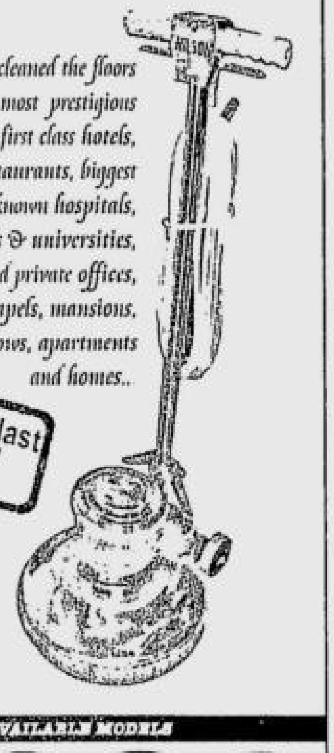

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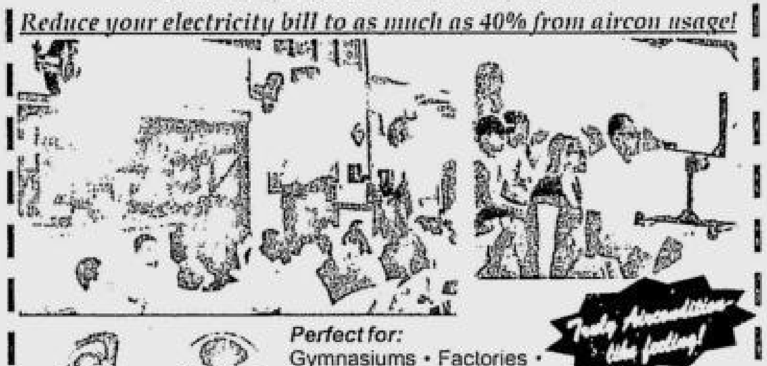

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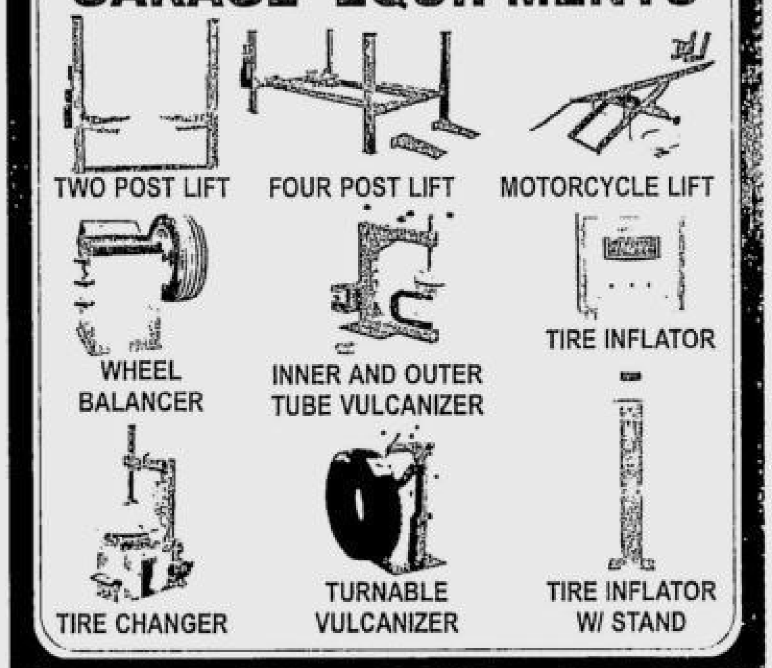

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Shame campaign aims to knock Pacquiao out of electoral race

By Christian V. Esguerra

IF YOU CAN'T STOP HIM, SHAME HIM.

Failing to convince Manny Pacquiao to forgo his political plans, his fans turned into foes, assaulting their idol with a mean combination of profanity and below-the-belt insults.

Pacquiao-bashing has hit the Internet and has made its way into text messages.

Wrote a blogger with the username Pacfan No More: "Manny makes too many mistakes because he's an idiot. People who will vote for him are even more [idiotic]."

Apparently sharing the sentiment was fellow blogger, Daredevil, who wrote: "Pacman will be [KOed] this coming election … He's stupid about his ambition in the political arena."

Both bloggers were reacting to an article on the website Boxing Confidential which said fans were clamoring for Pacquiao to abandon his political ambitions—at least for now.

At 28 years old and coming off two victories over future Hall of Famer Erik Morales, Pacquiao is arguably the most exciting fighter in the world.

But his recent announcement that he would seek a congressional seat in his South Cotabato province has cost him a number of fans.

The district, composed of General Santos City and the towns of Polomolok, Tupi and Tampakan, is represented by oppositionist and reelectionist Darlene Antonino-Custodio.

An online survey by boxing website Boxing Confidential showed that 84 percent of 1,020 respondents said "Hell no!" to Pacquiao's decision to join politics.

On the local website Pacland.com, an overwhelming 91 percent of 12,484 respondents rejected the idea of Pacquiao as politician.

Even Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson has asked Pacquiao to drop his political bid, saying it is a "suicidal move."

"As a friend, I am one of those who are pushing him away [from politics] because whether we admit it or not, politics is sometimes dirty and we want him to [avoid] dirty politics," Singson, one of the most visible supporters of Pacquiao, told the INQUIRER on Thursday.

In contrast, Sultan Kudarat Gov. Datu Pakung Mangudadatu has predicted a win for Pacquiao.

"I have no doubt that he will make it in the May 14 elections because of Manny's legion of supporters mostly from the masses," said Mangudadatu, the first Muslim governor of the Christian-dominated province.

Mangudadatu, who is seeking reelection, said Manny's willingness to serve the people was his greatest weapon.

Political observers in Central Mindanao said the fielding of Pacquiao was to help ensure victory for administration candidates who may again take control of the House of Representatives. It would also kill moves to impeach President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Custodio was one of those who strongly pushed for Ms Arroyo's removal from office.

The President was accused of cheating in the 2004 elections, during which she was pitted against the widely popular actor, Fernando Poe Jr. *With reports from Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon, and Charlie C. Senase, Inquirer Mindanao*

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A security guard pulls down an 8-ft x 8-ft poster bearing the faces of the Team Unity senatorial candidates from the perimeter wall of a Las Piñas City subdivision. Residents had complained about the poster that violated campaign rules as to size and location. They said "menacing-looking" men accompanied by a policeman had put up the poster.

One year later, Ka Bel still in detention

By TJ Burgonio

WHILE THERE SEEMS TO BE NO END IN SIGHT to his detention, Anakpawis party-list Rep. Crispin "Ka Bel" Beltran isn't about to give up his fight to seek a fresh term in the House of Representatives.

Beltran, 74, marks today his first year of detention on rebellion charges at the Philippine Heart Center. He said the charges against him were fabricated and decried his continued detention as "political repression."

"Yes, he's running. He'll put up a good fight," Renato Reyes, secretary general of Bayan who visited the lawmaker at the hospital in Quezon City on Saturday, said in an interview.

At its Feb. 5 second national convention, Anakpawis drafted Beltran as its No. 1 nominee from a field of 15. It is now preparing a motion for the local courts to allow him to personally file his nomination, campaign and cast his ballot on election day.

"It's not as if he decided this by himself. The entire party-list group endorsed him to be its No. 1 nominee," Cherry Clemente, Anakpawis secretary general, said in an interview.

Beltran, head of the peasant group Anakpawis, was arrested during a state of national emergency declared by President Macapagal-Arroyo on Feb. 25 last year based on an arrest warrant for rebellion issued in the mid-1980s during the regime of former dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

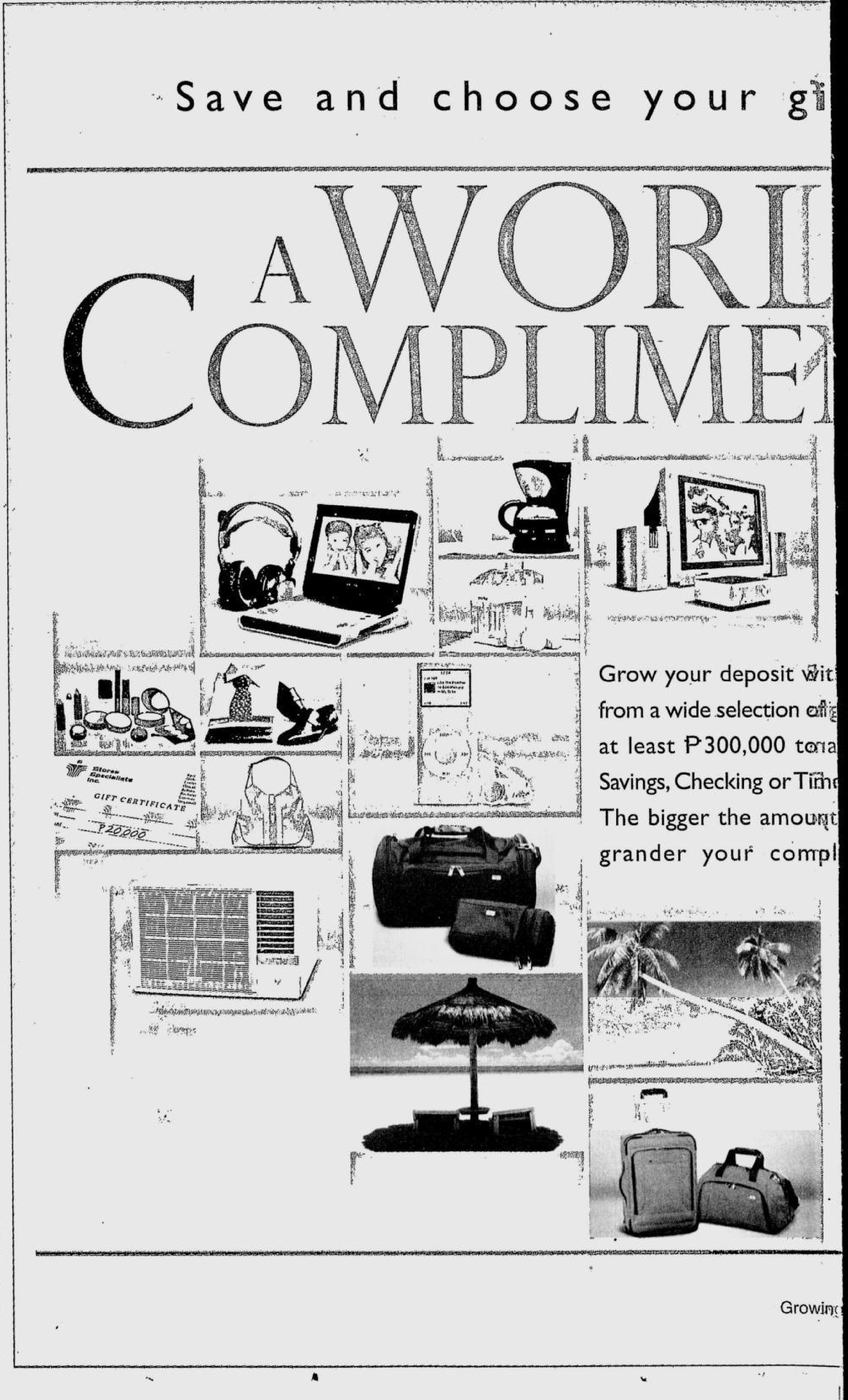
He also faces rebellion charges in connection with the alleged plot by an alliance of rightist soldiers and communist rebels to oust President Arroyo.

An outspoken labor leader, Beltran was arrested in August 1982 and jailed for two years. He later escaped and fled to the mountains in the company of communist New People's Army rebels.

Beltran, who has been detained under tight police security at the hospital while undergoing treatment for a heart ailment and high blood pressure, insisted that the charges against him were "fabricated" and branded his incarceration as a sign of "continuing political repression."

"By keeping me detained and refusing to drop the false charges against me, the Arroyo regime only affirms its reputation as a burgeoning dictatorship and human rights violator," he said in a statement released to the press.

Anakpawis, Kilusang Mayo Uno and the Free Ka Bel Movement will hold an ecumenical service for the lawmaker and will stage a rally for his immediate release in front of the hospital at 10 a.m. today. Shortly after, they will march to the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency headquarters.



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PAARL will also hold a national conference on "Emerging Trends in Libraries and Information Services" on April 25-27 at Covelandia du Labrador in Tubuan, Labrador, Pangasinan.

Topics will include best practices as basic guidelines in the development of library policies, new frameworks for access and delivery of information, statistics and evaluation for improved services.

For more information and reservations, PAARL president Marietta D. Molina may be reached at tel. 735-94-06 or e-mail marietta_molina@yahoo.com; Loreto T. Garcia, vice president and conference chair, at tel. 531-80-31 ext. 15 or e-mail loreto.garcia@jru.edu, or Christopher C. Paras, secretary, at tel. 781-63-57, e-mail ccparas_au@yahoo.com.

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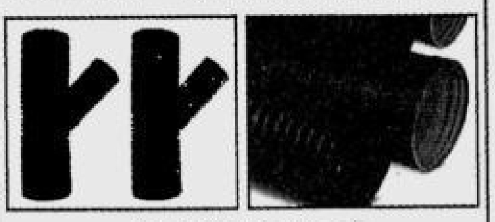

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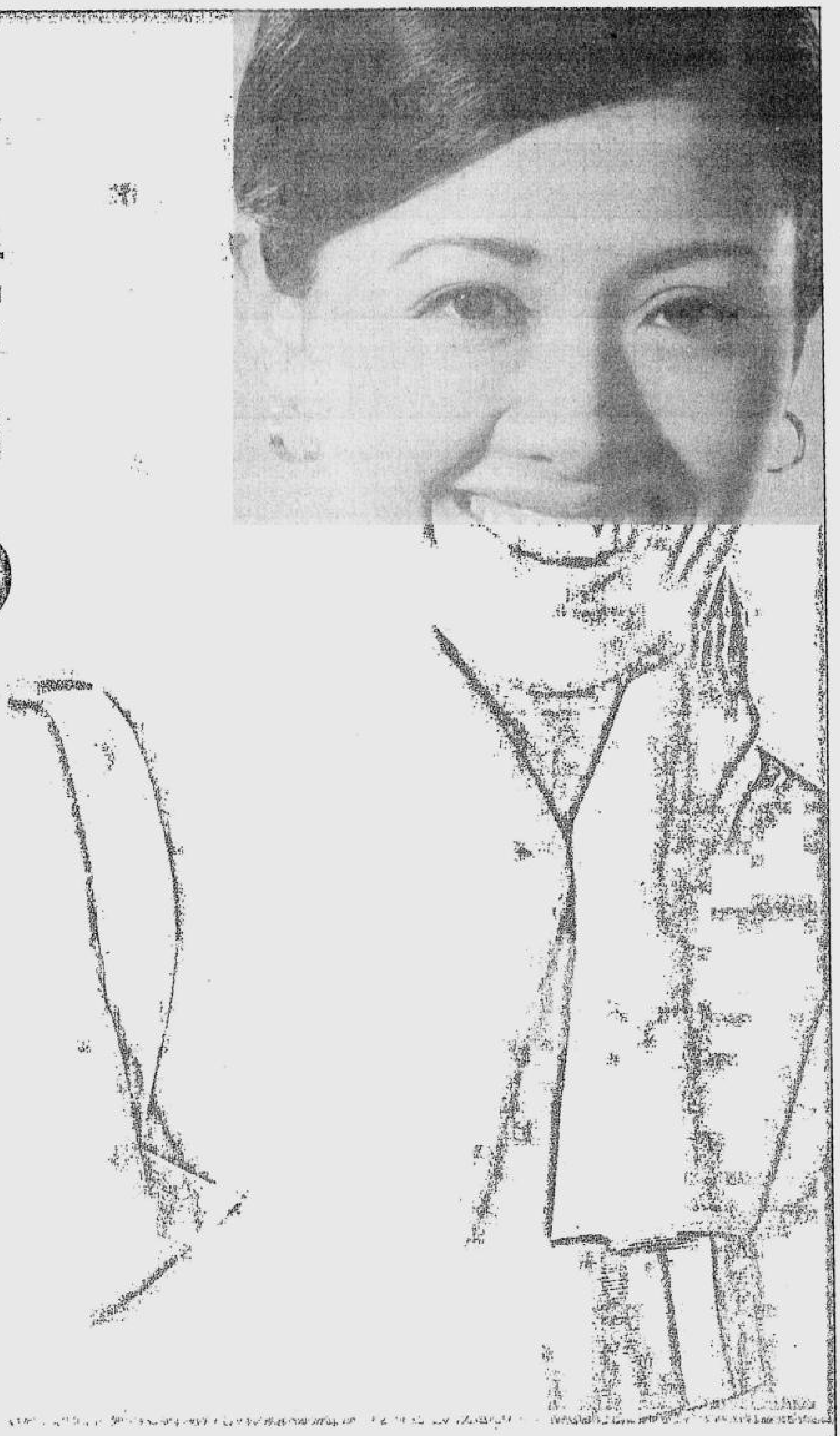

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Seeds of abuse

EDITORIAL

ULTIMATELY, THE REASON THE ARMED FORCES has reacted so vehemently against the Alston statement is that the report has taken the wind out of the sails of the politico-military propaganda to justify the policy of all-out war.

That propaganda, like all propaganda, takes a kernel of truth, and then proceeds to embalm it in selective reasoning that is combined with outright lies. The truth is communism, as an ideology and political alternative, remains unpopular and is attractive only to a committed minority. The selective reasoning is that the public is prepared to turn a blind eye to official excesses in order to destroy the communist movement. The outright lies are that government and the military are fighting communists fair and square, that criticisms are merely propaganda and that liquidations and abductions—a policy of extermination—are a tolerable, if not normal, "collateral damage."

Alston pointed out that the perspective of the government—and indeed, of many of the government's critics—are too self-limiting.

Much as the administration loves reducing everything to a "numbers game"—whether at impeachment proceedings or when pushing for constitutional amendments or nitpicking about the actual number of extrajudicial killings—Alston said: "The numbers game is especially unproductive... Even more importantly, numbers are not what count. The impact of even a limited number of killings of the type alleged is corrosive in many ways." To our mind, his statement proposed three questions.

First, how pervasive is brutality as a weapon for upholding authority? As he put it, "those specific killings are, in many ways, a symptom of a much more extensive problem and we should not permit our focus to be limited artificially."

Whether it's the scandal of minors imprisoned with hardened criminals, or the shoot-first-ask-questions-later approach of the police, or the truncheons and tear gas aimed at those who express dissent in the streets, or court cases aimed at those who disagree by means of (or criticize through) the written word, we have a brutal society further brutalized by a government remorseless about its harsh methods.

Only after examining just how brutal things are can we determine whether extrajudicial murders are a fiction or reality. And then the associated crimes of illegal detention and making people disappear altogether. In Alston's view, disappearance cases can raise the body count as few of those abducted are seen alive again.

The second point is, what is the capacity of Philippine officialdom to impose accountability? How open, or closed, are the minds of civilian and military leaders to reasonable efforts to describe the human rights situation as it is, and not as press releases paint them out to be?

To engage in knee-jerk denials is to send "a message of vulnerability to all but the most well-connected, and it severely undermines the political discourse which is central to a resolution of the problems confronting this country."

Alston said, "very mixed and often unsatisfactory" messages from the chief executive are not enough, especially since the President's expressions of concern are accompanied, "at the operational level…with a response of incredulity, mixed with offense."

The blinkers that make officials blind, Alston pointed out, are reinforced by executive issuances. This points to the culpability of a President who may not be issuing bloodthirsty orders to liquidate specific enemies, but who has armed all her officials with legal instruments that make them feel they are accountable to no one:

"Executive Order 464 and its replacement, Memorandum Circular 108 undermine significantly the capacity of Congress to hold the executive to account in any meaningful way," Alston said.

Which means that the third question—Is the government both willing and able to take criticism, engage in reforms and rededicate itself to principles it ought to have been upholding all along?—must be answered in the negative. As Alston said, "[T]he executive branch, openly and enthusiastically aided by the military, has worked resolutely to circumvent" peacemaking reforms such as the repeal of the Anti-Subversion Law, "by trying to impede the work of the party-list groups and to put in question their right to operate freely."

In other words, the government bears fundamental responsibility for establishing an overall principle that denies the people any means to hold it accountable. Without accountability, there is impunity, and with impunity comes a mentality that fosters extrajudicial murder.

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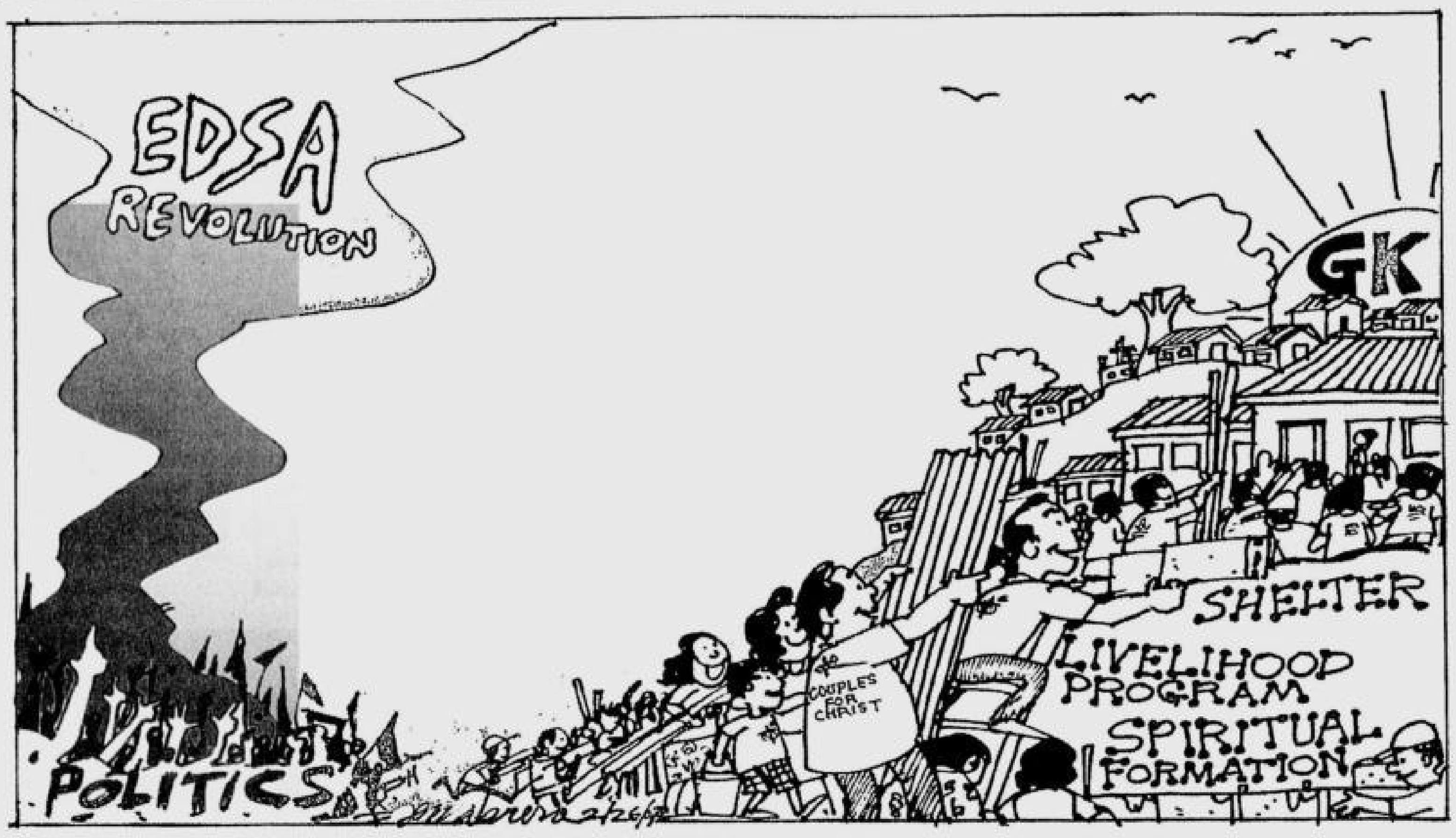


The untold story of Edsa I

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

REAMS AND REAMS OF COPY HAVE BEEN written about Edsa I which chased President Ferdinand Marcos, family and cronies to Hawaii. The roles played in the People Power drama by Juan Ponce Enrile, Fidel V. Ramos, Gringo Honasan, Jaime Cardinal Sin, Butz Aquino and others are well known. What is not well known is that Edsa I almost ended the other way around—with the people defeated and the Marcoses the victors—had not some senior officers disobeyed direct orders from Malacañang.

Early on, when there were only a few people on Edsa (between Camps Aguinaldo and Crame) President Marcos ordered their dispersal. But his orders were nimbly sidestepped by his own soldiers and police, particularly Gen. Alfredo Lim, chief of the Northern Police District, which encompasses Edsa. Lim could have changed the course of history during the first two fateful days of the Edsa Revolution.

"I was in my office at headquarters, Camp Sikatuna, that Saturday afternoon, watching the unfolding events on television," General Lim recounted. "General Olivas, Metrocom commander, rang me up and asked if I knew what was going on. I said 'yes' and he told me to mobilize all my officers and men of the Northern Police District and wait for further orders. So I bade my chiefs and men of Quezon City, Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela and San Juan to assemble all their available units at Sikatuna headquarters. About 800 came."

Obviously, their mission was to sweep away the people from Edsa, restore the highway to traffic, and thus open up the two army camps where the rebels had holed up. But General Lim managed to while away the night without moving on Edsa. The leaders of the rebels, Defense Minister Enrile and General Ramos of the PC/INP, were Lim's immediate bosses. And there was Cardinal Sin on Radio Veritas appealing to the people to help Enrile and Ramos and their men. Lim decided to heed the call of the cardinal.

Had he obeyed Malacañang's orders and cleared the highway, the Edsa Revolution would have died aborning.

"We were monitoring developments at Edsa and had learned that at about 10 p.m., Butz Aquino and his August 21 Movement (Atom) had marched from Cubao to join the Edsa crowds. At daybreak of Sunday, Butz and his Atom retired after an all-night vigil on Edsa. The crowd left on Edsa was less than a thousand by then. They could easily have been dispersed."

That Sunday morning, Feb. 23, Lim received specific orders from the army commander himself, Lt. Gen. Josephus Ramas, through Colonel Javier. The specific orders were: "Clear Edsa at once!"

All Sunday morning, Lim delayed obeying those orders.

"There were frequent calls to my office from the office of General Ver, asking about my whereabouts, but I had instructed my staff not to tell where I was and to say only that I was on patrol," Lim narrated. "Actually, I was at the necrological services for Major Luna, one of my officers who had died of a heart attack. But the calls from General Ver became so persistent—they were all searching for me—that finally, toward noon, I went to Edsa."

Lim made his appearance at P. Tuason corner Edsa.

"I met with Colonel Dawis and he told me that General Ramas had sent CDC troops (the army's crowd control unit) under the command of Colonel Javier. I went to see Colonel Javier and he told me his orders were to contact me and await instructions from me.

"'OK, just stay put,' I told him. There were about 250 of them equipped with batons and shields. They bivouacked at the Edsa-Tuason corner. Three doors away was the Lagman Antique Shop, where I set up my command post."

By Sunday noon, the Edsa crowd had increased to 5,000, still a manageable mass. Lim could have cleared the highway easily. But he gave no orders to start dispersals. After Cardinal Sin had gone on air, the highway began to really fill up. Lim saw people hurrying in like ants.

At 2:25 p.m., Lim was notified by Quezon City mobile police that he was urgently being ordered to call the Study Room in Malacañang. Lim rang up the Study Room, the President's office, and was soon listening to the vexed voice of Marcos, the president and commander in chief.

"General Lim, what's happening out there?"

"Mr. President, there are many people converging on Edsa, between Crame and Aguinaldo."

"Then you tell them to go home because we are going to shell Crame. Tell them to disperse so they won't get hurt. We are sending in tanks, mortars and artillery. So be sure to disperse them at all costs."

"Yes sir, Mr. President."

But what Lim did was to ring up the office of General Olivas, his immediate superior. Col. Mitch Templo answered. He said General Olivas was sleeping.

"Well, wake him up!" Lim yelled. "This is urgent. I have orders from President Marcos to disperse the crowds on Edsa and I want to refer the matter to General Olivas."

Colonel Templo said he would call back. But Olivas had been sedated and could not be disturbed on doctor's orders. The implication was that Olivas was ill and might have suffered a slight heart attack.

Lim was in a quandary. What should he do next? Then the phone rang again. "This time it was Col. Alex Aguirre, a classmate of mine at the National Defense College. He said he was in Camp Crame with General Ramos, and (told me) to hold the line because General Ramos wanted to talk to me. While I was waiting, into the Lagman Antique Shop strode Butz Aquino. He said: 'General, in other days you were chasing us. Today we are protecting soldiers at Crame.' I said to him: 'Good, but wait!' So Butz stayed at the doorway while I talked to General Ramos."

That telephone conversation was one of the most crucial moments of Edsa.

(To be continued)

Laughable lies

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

DESPITE THE GRIMNESS OF THE ISSUE, I nearly laughed my head off at the statements made by Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's motley crew.

The first was the one that came from Raul Gonzalez. He said United Nations Special Rapporteur Philip Alston was a "*muchacho*, a minor figure in the UN." *Muchacho*, of course, has taken on added meanings in this country. It no longer just means boy or lad, it means servant of a particularly low order, only a notch higher than the animal you order "Go, fetch." It is a term used in households where the master takes on *cacique* airs for real or imagined reasons.

How's that for a horrendously rich irony? That statement comes from someone who has been the *muchacho* of a non-elected president and who has truly been often told to "Go, fetch." Or in this case, "Go, bark." Surely there's a lot more dignity to being a *muchacho* of the UN than to being an *alila* of GMA?

The only horrendously richer irony is that Gonzalez is called the "justice secretary." But he may rest assured that though Alston is a minor figure in the UN, he is the UN when he condemns the killings in the Philippines as the handiwork of government and the military. He carries the weight of that world body behind him in that judgment. Indeed, while at that, the UN sees itself as being no more or less than a *muchacho*, or servant, of truth and civilized life.

Equally laughable of the kind that brings no merriment was Hermogenes Esperon's statement that it was Alston who was "in denial," who could not see, or refused to see, that the killings were the handiwork of the rebel movement which, for some reason, liked to decimate itself. Well, the only reason I can believe Esperon himself is not in denial is that he has a tendency to believe his own lies. He internalizes lies to a point where he no longer needs to deny them.

To this day he maintains there was no cheating in the May 2004 elections, notwithstanding that the "Hello Garci" tape reveals him to have participated in it. Indeed, notwithstanding that an eyewitness, Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani, has tagged him for it. He is not in denial only in that he has repeated to himself, "There was no cheating in the elections…there was no cheating in the elections…" and hypnotized himself into believing it in the deepest recesses of his brain, such as its size is capable of harboring deep recesses. Since then, he has been repeating to himself as well about the killings, "The butler did it…the butler did it…," the butler taking in his mind the shadowy form of the NPA. And believing it to a point where he can bristle at the thought of anybody proclaiming otherwise.

It's part of the growing pathology of this government that it has taken into its head that if it can dupe the citizens into believing the Big Lie, it can dupe as well the foreign community, the UN included, into doing so. Take the nursing exams. Having gotten used to cheating and getting away with it; it began to think that if it swept the cheating under the rug—passing nurses on the basis of an incomplete exam—it could appease the world and make it "move on." The US refusal to give working visas to Batch June 2006 was a rude awakening.

This is the same case. Having gotten used to giving the citizens of this country a version of life that patently defies the evidence offered by their senses, Esperon now thinks he can do the same thing to the UN. And expect it to "move on." Well, he too is bound for one very rude awakening.

And finally Ignacio Bunye's breathtaking suggestion that his boss has in fact been doing everything to stop the killings. "From the beginning, this government has strongly condemned the killings of activists and journalists. (Ms Arroyo formed the Melo Commission expressly) to get to the bottom of the political killings that have plagued the nation for many generations."

But my dear Ignacio, surely even you know that the slaughter of hundreds of journalists and political activists in the space of a few years has **not** plagued the nation for many generations, it has plagued the nation only under the rule of your boss? I remember again Al Gore quoting Upton Sinclair: "It is difficult to get a man to understand something when his salary depends upon his not understanding it."

So what if GMA has strongly condemned the killings? That is all she has done, strongly condemned. Anyone may strongly condemn—Garci himself may strongly condemn electoral cheating. Bunye is right, actions speak louder than words. GMA has repeatedly asked witnesses to step out and name the killers. Why should they? Gudani and Col. Alexander Balutan stepped out to name the cheaters in the May elections, and she had them court-martialed for their pains.

As to the Melo Commission, well, that one is complete déjà vu. We had something nearly exactly like it in the past, which was the Agrava Commission. The latter was formed to find out what the entire country pretty much already knew, which was who killed Ninoy Aquino. Marcos might not have directly done it—he lay at death's door at the time—but the people who planned and executed it certainly did it in his name. He was ultimately responsible for it. His government, of course, maintained that a patsy named Galman was.

The Agrava Commission never really got beyond indicting a few foot soldiers for the "*pusila*." The Melo Commission does one better: It has indicted a general, Jovito Palparan, for the slaughter of the (presumed) innocent and raised the possibility of his commander in chief, GMA, being liable as well for it. GMA "formed the Melo Commission to get to the bottom of the political killings." Well, at least by interpolation, the bottom of the political killings buoys up to her.

Actions speak louder than words: What is she going to do about **that**?

A time of testing

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

THREE THINGS COME TOGETHER AT THIS period of our history. We are celebrating the rebirth of democracy as we remember Edsa; we are confronted with the task of choosing the men and women who will lead the nation through the next few years; we are entering the Lenten season so dear to our people. The three have something in common: they all signify a period of testing.

Ash Wednesday, which ushered in Lent, was not a holy day of obligation. But churches last Wednesday were packed. There is something appealing about the symbolism of the cross drawn on the forehead. It draws people to reflect on the meaning of life and to think of what happens after we turn to dust, especially now when we, as a people, are being put to the test.

Yesterday, the first Sunday of Lent, the gospel reading was also about a period of testing. It was about the 40 days and 40 nights our Lord spent in the desert wilderness where He was put to the test by the devil. It can serve as a framework for how Christians might reflect on what is happening to us today.

The desert wilderness where Jesus was put to the test was not a romantic place. It was a place replete with danger. It was inhabited by wild animals. It was the refuge of bandits and the discards of society. And it was believed to be the abode of demons. You and I, therefore, might be tempted to compare it with the political situation in the Philippines 21 years after Edsa. But that might be an exaggeration.

The important point I would emphasize, however, is that the desert was a place of testing for Israel, and Israel failed the test. Jesus chose it as his place of testing, and He, unlike Israel, passed the test. Twenty-one years ago we were tested and we did not fail. Once again we are being tested. This year's election can be make or break for us. How can we make sure that, like Jesus in the desert, we will pass the test? Let us look at how Jesus passed his triple test.

The first thing to notice is that, according to the gospel narrative, Jesus had emerged from the river Jordan filled with the Holy Spirit. He entered the battle arena armed with the Spirit of God. What this tells us is that, if we hope to pass our test, we too should arm ourselves with the Spirit of God. The struggle we are going through is not just against human and material obstacles but also against principalities and powers stronger than our unaided selves.

The first temptation Our Lord confronted was a temptation to rely on bread. Bread, of course, assuages hunger. The temptation to bread recalls the hunger of the Israelites in the wilderness and how God sent down manna. The devil tempted Jesus to perform a repeat of the same. "If you are the Son of God, turn these stones into bread." It was a temptation to rely on material instruments, on wealth, on technology, a temptation we also are prone to. Our Lord's answer was simple: "Not by bread alone does man live but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." Wealth alone and progress and technology will not save us unless we also obey the word of God, unless we are faithful to His commandments.

The second temptation was for Jesus to worship the devil in exchange for power. "All these things will I give you if you but fall down and worship." Jesus asks us today: What price will you pay to be able to win power, to win an election, to regain control of government and its resources, or to win a case in court? Are you willing to sell your soul? Election time is a period when the devil is out to buy souls. Our Lord's answer to the temptation was: "You shall worship the Lord, your God, and Him alone shall you serve." Is your soul for sale? Is your candidate selling his or her soul?

The third temptation was an attempt to force the hand of God, a temptation to showmanship. "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written: He will command His angels concerning you, to guard you, and with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone." Jesus said to him in reply, "Scripture also says, you shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test."

Three times the devil tried; three times he failed. But he has not given up. The testing continues among us. The same temptations go on—to value bread more than the commandments, to worship the devil in exchange for power, to force the hand of God.

The goals of a temptation may appear admirable—feed the hungry, bring the world under the control of good, trust in God's power to protect us—but we often choose to accomplish them through means that are not admirable.

We begin the Lenten season by being reminded that we cannot accomplish victory on our own. We will probably be planning to do things for Lent. But Lent is not so much a time for doing things as much as a time for allowing God to transform us. And in transforming ourselves we transform the nation. As the reading last Ash Wednesday said, "Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart." And as the responsorial Psalm today says: "Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble." It is only God's power and mercy that can extricate us from the wilderness we are in. Let us allow God to play a lead role in our personal and national lives.

Pro-life, pro-death list

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

UNLESS YOU ARE NOT YET DRAWN INTO THE political cynicism of the times, and assuming that you will exercise your right to vote in the coming elections, here is a criterion for choosing your candidates.

Causes that have to do with questions on abortion, artificial contraception, euthanasia and divorce have increasingly entered into the political worldview of our politicians. Consequently, through the legislators' records in Congress and their advocacies, it has become easy for voters to determine what their leanings are. The fact is, voters see their propensities and are able to use these as simple gauges for the kind of legislators they want elected.

It is a simple equation that guides us whom not to vote for and whom to vote for. If one is not for the causes that support life, then one is, conversely, anti-life. If one is anti-life, then one must be pro-death.

The fact is, there are legislators in both the Senate and the House of Representatives who are advocating abortion and "total population control." Using euphemisms (e.g., "Responsible Parenthood and Population Management Act" and "The Two-Child Policy"), these legislators, for example, actually advocate the use of contraceptives and mandatory sex education starting with Grade 5 pupils in both private and public schools. The guidance is simple: do not vote them into office.

The pro-death legislators are: Representatives Edcel C. Lagman, Josefina M. Joson, Juan C. Ponce Enrile Jr., Loretta Ann P. Rosales, Glenda B. Ecleo, Eduardo V. Roquero, Janette L. Garin, Renato B. Magtubo, Ferjenel G. Biron, Lorenzo R. Tañada III, Ronaldo B. Zamora, Jose Carlos V. Lacson, Emilio C. Macias II, Clavel A. Martinez, Solomon R. Chungalao, Pedro M. Pancho, Del R. de Guzman, Gerardo J. Espina Jr., Gilbert C. Remulla, Jesus Crispin C. Remulla, Jose G. Solis, Danilo E. Suarez, Nerissa Corazon Soon-Ruiz, Arthur D. Defensor, Rodolfo T. Albano III, Hussin U. Amin, Antonio H. Cerilles, Emmylou J. Taliño-Santos, Luis R. Villafuerte, Amelita C. Villarosa, Rodante D. Marcoleta, Rodolfo G. Valencia, Matias V. Defensor Jr., Liza Largoza-Maza, Lorna C. Silverio, J.R. Nereus O. Acosta, Guillermo P. Cua, Carmen L. Cari, Arthur Y. Pingoy Jr., Mario Joyo Aguja, Edwin C. Uy, Mauricio G. Domogan, Elias C. Bulut Jr., Leonila V. Chavez, Faysah Maniri-Racman Dumarpa, Darlene R. Antonino-Custodio and Ana Theresia Hontiveros-Baraquel. Remember their names come voting day.

In addition, a related bill, HB 5285: "Magna Carta for Women," seeks to promote reproductive rights and reproductive health and will eventually legalize abortion as a right of women. Remember the name of the author as one to avoid on election day: Rep. Josefina Joson.

The fact is that as per congressional records, the following legislators have been known to be supporters of anti-life and anti-family bills: Region 1: Estrella, Marcos, Singson; Region 2: Agbayani, Albano, Dy, Ponce Enrile, Uy, Vargas; Region 3: Aquino A, Aquino B, Angara, Diaz, Joson, Nicolas, Lapus, Magsaysay Ma M, Pancho, Roquero, Silverio; Region 4-A: Agarao, Bueser, Ermita-Buhain, Chipeco, Duavit, Remulla G, Remulla J, Reyes V, Suarez, Tañada III; Region 4-B: Valencia, Villarosa, Firmalo; Region 5: Alfelor Jr., Andaya Jr., Lagman, Salceda, Solis, Villafuerte; Region 6: Arroyo I, Biron, Carmona, Dadivas, Defensor A, Espinosa, Loreto-Garin, Gonzalez, Lacson, Marañon, Suplico, Syjuco; Region 7: Durano, Macias II, Martinez, Paras, Soon-Ruiz, Teves; Region 8: Codilla, Espina, Figueroa, Mercado, Uy, Veloso; Region 9: Barinaga, Cerilles; Region 10: Acosta, Baculio, Clarete, Ramiro, Zubiri; Region 11: Cagas, Floirendo, Malanyaon, Nograles; Region 12: Antonino-Custodio, Ipong, Mangudadatu, Pingoy, Taliño-Santos; Region 13 (Caraga): Amante, Banaag, Barbers, Plaza; National Capital Region: Abalos, Aquino A, Castelo-Daza, Defensor M., De Guzman, Dy, Jaworski, Locsin, Sandoval, Villar, Zamora; Cordillera Autonomous Region: Bulut, Chungalao, Dominguez, Domogan, Wacnang; Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao: Amin, Datumanong, Dumarpa, Macarambon; Party List: Akbayan: Aguja, Hontiveros-Baraquel, Rosales; Alagad: Marcoleta; Alif: Tomawis; Anak Mindanao: Hataman; Anakpawis: Beltran, Mariano; Ave: Magsaysay; Bayan Muna: Casiño, Ocampo, Virador; Butil: Chavez; Cibac: Villanueva; Coop Natco: Cua; Gabriela: Maza; Partido Manggagawa: Magtubo; VFP: Gidaya.

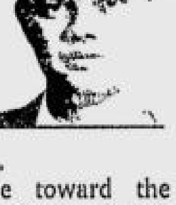
And now for the pro-lifers; whether running for reelection, for the Senate, or for a local government position, they deserve our votes: Region 1: Baterina, Tulagan, Cojuangco M; Region 3: Roman, Garcia, Arroyo M, Nepomuceno, Violago; Region 4-A: Mandanas, Gozos, Rodriguez, Sumulong; Region 4-B: Mitra, Reyes E; Region 5: Espinosa Jr., Fuentebella, Seachon; Region 6: Castro, Puentevella; Region 7: Kintanar, Cajes, Chatto, Cuenco, Del Mar, Gullas, Yapha; Region 8: Go-Apostol; Region 10: Jaraula Badelles, Lagbas; Region 11: Almario, Lopez, Zamora; National Capital Region: Crisologo, Golez, Zialcita, Abante, Bacani, Hizon, Lopez, Nieva, Roces; Party List: Buhay: Señeres, Velarde; An Waray: Noel.

The fewer pro-death legislators we vote into office, the better for the promotion of Filipino family values that must be continually upheld even in the face of Western liberalism and US "contraceptive imperialism."

* * *

Comments to monta@cu-cdo.edu.ph

A year of murder



THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

THUS BEGINS A WELL-LOVED POEM, ROBERT Frost's "The Road Not Taken." Blame it on my unsophisticated, even literal (when it comes to poetic imagery), literary tastes, but the poem came to my mind because of three things: a story, an anniversary and a report.

This story was told to me, several weeks ago, by the person who washes my hair whenever I get my haircut. As so often happens, it began with my being asked, and expressing an opinion, on current events. What, I was gently asked, did I think of the militarization of the countryside. I said I opposed it.

Silence at first met my remark, and then, slowly, even diffidently, the story began to unfold. The salon attendant is from San Jose, Nueva Ecija. He gets to return home only on major holidays, and briefly, at that. But with every visit comes a sharing of tales among friends and family.

When the military showed up in their town, a great fact-checking began. Army men pored over barangay records to see who among the residents had records of some sort. Each and every one received a summons to the barangay hall: collectively, all were told, they would be watched from now on.

The nature of the records ranged from petty complaints to cases of actual crimes. No distinctions were made as to the nature or the gravity of the offenses: anyone who was a subject of any kind of documented complaint would henceforth be a person of interest to the military.

The salon attendant's brother is a tricycle driver, and had a "record" (because of a quarrel with a driver of another vehicle) in the barangay. He, too, received his summons. He wasn't able to make it at the appointed place and time, because he had a passenger at the time. When he did show up, the military manhandled him.

This indiscriminate attitude toward the town's residents was combined, of course, with the better-known manifestations of military interests in rural areas: the demands for residence certificates; the monitoring of homes and residents; the haranguing of members of the community to denounce and oppose communists. Residents were even encouraged to support the administration's efforts to amend the Constitution.

And what was your community's experience with the New People's Army, I asked? Only this, the salon attendant replied: There was a policeman who was notorious for his involvement in the drug trade. He was issued warnings and then liquidated by a communist hit squad.

And what is your community's experience with the Armed Forces of the Philippines, I asked? Beyond the personal woes of his brother, the attendant replied, a feeling of fear and unease pervades their town. Because the military isn't discriminating, a barangay complaint immediately results in an interrogation—people have learned to use the military to settle old grudges and old scores. Even an anonymous complaint by text brings the soldiers to one's doorstep, not necessarily with fatal consequences; nonetheless, the experience leaves behind unpleasant, sometimes painful, memories.

Yesterday's Edsa anniversary and the release of the Alston statement and the Melo report, combined with that story in San Jose, brought Frost's poem to mind. It seems to me that quite a few people consider the Melo Report and the Alston statement a crossroads. They are not. The two documents are not a crossroads; the 20th anniversary of Edsa was. We reached that point of decision a year ago, and we, that is, the country, have been traveling the wide highway, the easy path, the fast lane to "economic progress"—but also, the cemetery lane since then.

To be sure, the oath leading to the crossroads began at different stages for different people: in 2001, in 2004, in 2005. The yellow wood has defined our existence since 1986, each crossroads within it until 2001 basically saw our sticking to the more difficult democratic path, the path of people power, the path of peace. We might stray from that path from time to time, but both leaders and followers would try to return to it.

Last year the crossroads was reached, and in the yellow wood that is our country, the decision was made to clear the forest: one by one, basic assumptions we had accepted since 1986 were cut down like so many trees: CPR was the official repudiation of protest as an integral part of the democratic process; EO 464 was the repudiation of the principle of checks and balances; the State of Emergency, the escalating—and sustained—assault on media whether through outright murder, the intimidation of owners, or the flood of suits filed in court by officials and non-officials alike, were the repudiation of the freedom of speech. We saw toothpicks made out of our freedoms, and too many hailed them as the signs of progress.

And so, as Frost's poem concludes, so too must we conclude that too many have not taken the lonelier road—and will come to regret it. Unlike the poet who expressed an ultimate, though weary satisfaction with his less-traveled path—too many have refused to make a difference.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

The return of Francis G. Estrada

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

LAST MAY, THE ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT welcomed back one of its most distinguished sons, Francis G. Estrada. Several months earlier, the AIM Board of Trustees, acting on the recommendation of a search committee, selected for the first time in almost 40 years, an alumnus to be the next AIM president.

.On Thursday, March 1, Francis Gonzales Estrada, a class 1973 member who graduated with high honors and went on to establish a solid reputation as an international investment banker, will be formally invested as the institute's sixth president. The first two presidents were American educators, Stephen Fuller and James Culliton. They were followed by Gabino Mendoza, Felipe Alfonso and Roberto de Ocampo.

For our readers who may not be too familiar with AIM, let me devote a few lines to provide some background on this pioneer graduate school of management in Asia.

AIM was established in 1968 through a tie-up involving the Harvard Business School, the Ford Foundation and distinguished visionaries of the Asian academic and business communities. For the last 40 years or so, the institute has offered world-class graduate education that has molded Asia's business leaders and managers. It has created programs specifically for Asian needs, using an approach attuned to the Asian mind and to Asian problems. While it started as a school for business management, over the years it has expanded its activities to encompass management of government agencies, non-profit organizations and small- and medium-scale enterprises.

The four schools of AIM are the Washington Sycip Graduate School of Business, the Center for Development Management, the Asian Center for Entrepreneurship, and the Executive Education and Lifelong Learning Center. The institute offers five degree programs: the flagship two-year Master in Business Administration (MBA) program, the one-year Master in Management (MM) program, the Master in Development Management (MDM) program, the Executive MBA program, and the Master in Entrepreneurship (ME) program. It also runs a number of short programs covering a wide range of basic business and management subjects.

Incidentally, many military officers have gone through various AIM programs. Just to mention a few: We have Renato Valencia, Renato de Villa, Romeo David, Conrado Tolentino, Willy Parayno and Angelo Reyes. They served with distinction in civilian government offices, no doubt a tribute to their AIM education.

In 1995, AIM received the Ramon Magsaysay Award for its role in the promotion of international understanding and for setting region-wide standards for excellence.

* * *

Francis G. Estrada comes from a family of achievers. His father Antonio Sr., was a doctor of laws who later became a diplomat. His mother Josefa Gonzales taught at the University of Sto. Tomas for 50 years, obtaining a Ph.D. in philosophy—one of the first women in the Philippines to earn this distinction. Her thesis adviser at UST: Antonio Estrada Sr. She would later run for senator under the banner of the Progressive Party of the Philippines (PPP) of Sen. Manuel Manahan.

Estrada is the youngest of five brothers. He finished at De la Salle University in 1971, graduating with two degrees, both with honors—a BS in Business Administration and an AB major in Literature, minor in Economics. Having been a student activist involved in the First Quarter Storm, his job prospects were poor. Thus, he decided to continue his academic work, taking up a Master's degree in Business Management (MBM) at the AIM.

In an article by Rose Cheryl Orbigo, "Alumnus at the Helm," published in the AIM Alumni Leadership Magazine, July-September 2006 issue, Estrada says that AIM influenced his drive for excellence and instilled in him a strong work ethic. "At AIM, I was brought into a rigorous learning environment. I had many more knowledgeable and experienced classmates. I had to survive. In what was an eminently competitive but meritocratic culture, it was important that you not be considered a *bolero*."

Graduating "With Distinction" in 1973, Estrada joined Procter and Gamble, but after a while, moved over to the investment banking field as executive assistant to Sixto Roxas at Bancom. From Bancom, he would establish himself as a financial adviser and entrepreneur specializing in Asia-related financial operations.

After more than 30 years of much financial success in the investment banking business, why AIM? His answer: "After 38 years, AIM is at an important crossroads. The choice of direction will have a profound impact on its sustainability and its success or failure . . . . With a sound stakeholder strategy, goodwill all round, and a willingness to execute decisively, perhaps, I could make a difference."

* * *

In a rejoinder to my Feb. 12 column, Ambassador Lauro L. Baja writes: "To be clear, I am not one of those officials wanting to stay on instead of gracefully bowing out of the service."

That's funny. In a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo dated Feb. 12, 2007, Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales referred to a letter to the President—from Ambassador Baja basically asking for more time in his post to attend to remaining tasks. Apparently, Baja sought the Cardinal's intercession on the matter. While Rosales endorsed Baja's request, he added "still, the foundational intent is whatever is for the good of the country. We leave the cause to your Excellency's decision."

The problem with some of our diplomats is that they get so used to the perks and privileges of an assignment abroad—dollar-based compensation package, chauffeured limousine with the flag, immunity from traffic violations. After a while, they find it difficult to give up such a lifestyle.

Baja may have served his country well. But, perhaps, he should keep in mind that the best time to leave the stage is when the audience is still applauding.

THEY SAID

Simple arithmetic

"You do not need long arithmetic to return money to taxpayers."

—Actor and Team Unity senatorial candidate Cesar Montano on criticisms against actors turning into politicians

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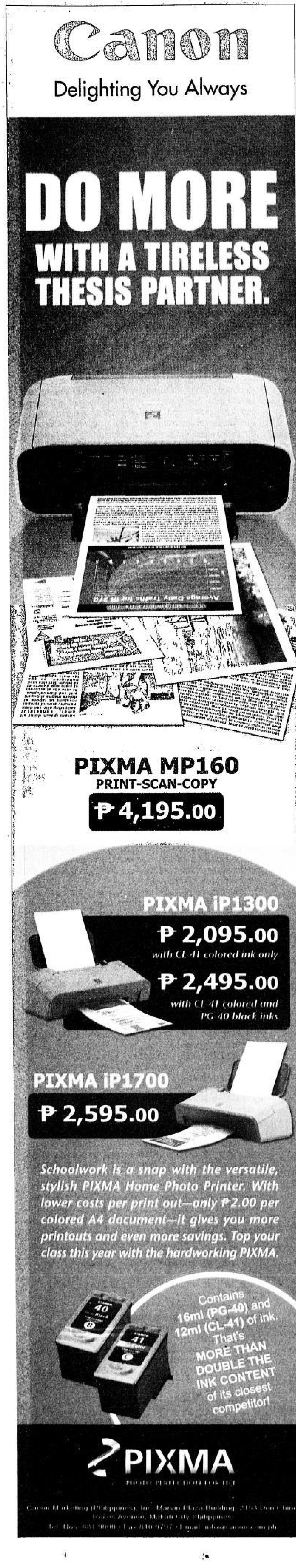
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LETTERS

Distinction not in Charter

MAY I COMMENT ON ARTEMIO V. Panganiban's Feb. 18 column.

In his piece, Panganiban wrote that "(i)n litigations involving the economy, courts must defer as much as possible to the actions taken by the President and Congress. This is known as 'deferential' interpretation, the opposite of strict scrutiny." He claimed that the Supreme Court implemented this "deferential stance" in several cases: Tañada v. Angara, the value added tax and the Mining Act of 1995.

First, the Constitution does not make a distinction between cases involving liberty and cases involving the economy. The distinction is Panganiban's, not the Constitution's.

Second, what Panganiban had accorded "deferential interpretation" were cases that the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization and their local minions in the Philippines would rather leave to the market for resolution. In the economy, they contend, sovereignty resides in the market, not in the people. While Panganiban's "deferential stance" fits this bias, it does violence to the nationalist soul of the Constitution. Sec. 19, Article II of the Constitution mandates the State to "develop a self-reliant and independent national economy effectively controlled by Filipinos."

Third, the outcome of the Tañada v. Angara case, in which Philippine accession to the WTO was declared constitutional, was the massacre of Philippine manufacturing companies, such as Colgate Palmolive, Johnson and Johnson, Pfizer, Philip Electrical and many others. These companies gave up their manufacturing operations in the Philippines and downgraded themselves into mere traders here, in the process laying off thousands of Filipino workers. Had the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Tañada, the Philippines could have postponed its entry into the WTO, as China did with spectacular results and as Vietnam is now preparing to do.

Fourth, Panganiban is prematurely rejoicing on the value added tax. A policy which indiscriminately picks, rather than fills, the people's pockets to reinforce the creditor's confidence in the Philippines as a debtor country is not likely to endure. Like the Arroyo administration, to paraphrase an INQUIRER editorial, Panganiban apparently confuses a press release with an enduring achievement.

Today, the prosperity, which Panganiban thought he helped "nurture" by deferring to the President and Congress on economic issues, is perceivable only in Malacañang's press releases.

—AMADO GAT INCIONG,
Unit 301 Union Square
Condominium, 145 15th Avenue,
Cubao, Quezon City

Rice QR extension not enough

THIS IS IN REACTION TO THE news item titled "WTO allows RP to keep restrictions on rice imports." (INQUIRER, 2/22/07)

We join our small farmers, NGOs and other rice stakeholders in congratulating our government negotiators for clinching the rice QR (quantitative restriction) extension. This gives us the flexibility to continue protecting the rice sector up to the year 2012.

We would like to specifically acknowledge former NFA Administrator Gregorio Tan Jr., head of the negotiating panel, and agriculture Undersecretary for Policy and Planning Segfredo Serrano, both of whom were instrumental in the successful conclusion of the negotiations. Their unwavering commitment to national interest and their readiness to listen to the stakeholders should serve as a model for all Philippine trade negotiators.

The WTO extension of the rice QR is a victory for the entire country, but most especially for our small rice farmers who waged an uphill struggle to keep the rice QR. They did this in the face of mounting domestic and international pressures to liberalize an industry that provides livelihood for 3 million farmers and food for 80 percent of the country's population.

However, this does not mean that we can rest on our laurels. Securing the extension of the rice QR is not enough. We should remember that the government failed to take advantage of the implementation period of the previous QR—to provide the support needed to modernize the sector. Had the government provided the requisite support services to our rice farmers, extending the QRs would not have been necessary in the first place.

In our rapidly globalizing world, the only genuine protection is to ensure the rice sector's competitiveness. Thus, government would do well to pour massive investments into an integrated program for competitiveness enhancement and self-sufficiency. This was in fact mandated by the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (Afma), which was enacted in response to pressures brought about by rapid agricultural liberalization. Unfortunately, in its six years in power, the present administration virtually abandoned the Afma.

Let us not delude ourselves into believing that our work is done. Securing the QR is only the first step. More will have to be done in the coming years to ensure that this victory does not turn into just another wasted opportunity.

—OMI C. ROYANDOYAN,
executive director,
Centro Saka Inc., Rm. 321,
PSSC Bldg., Commonwealth Ave.,
Diliman, Quezon City

CDC officials should respect existing contracts

THIS REFERS TO THE NEWS STORY, "Clark row to test sanctity of contracts in RP." (INQUIRER, 2/22/07)

My dad, Ben Hur Gomez, has done a lot in Clark. In Omni Aviation, he and others train pilots; but they also take people to see Mt. Pinatubo by plane. Every year, Omni Aviation holds the International Hot Air Balloon Festival. I am sure the Department of Tourism can tell anyone about this annual event.

I thought it was fun to attend the festival. I was hoping to watch the Philippine military's air show, the ultra-light planes compete with one another, the kite-flying contest and the hot air balloons; and, on the side, buy some delicacies.

I don't think it is fair for the CDC to evict my dad who developed Omni Aviation into what it is today. He was there when nobody really thought of Clark Air Base as a place to do business, when lahar covered its grounds.

The CDC officials should respect contracts or their authority is worthless.

—NINA GOMEZ,
Ninski_05@yahoo.com

It's a question of competence

IT IS SAD THAT THOSE WHO took the June 2006 nursing licensure exam must go through another difficulty. As a teacher in a health science school that offers the BS Nursing degree, I couldn't make sense out of this issue last year. A simple survey among our students showed they, too, were confused.

Even so, I thought that the simplest way out of the controversy was to retake the exam. A retake would entail additional costs for the examinees, but to my mind, it was a matter of principle. And I was confident that our graduates would pass the examination regardless of how many times they'd take it. Sad to say, many of our schools do not have the same confidence in their graduates—which means that they also have no confidence in our ability to teach students well.

Today, the choices are a lot clearer. If the passers want to work in the United States, they have to comply with what that country requires from them. We cannot ask for more (it is good enough that the CGFNS only requires the passer to retake Test 3 and Test 5 of the tainted exam)—knowing that in the eyes of the US government, a retake would be the simplest solution to erase the doubts about the passers' professional competence.

A refusal to retake those tests has simply too many implications—not only on the competence of those who passed that board but also on the integrity of all our licensure examinations.

As a teacher, if there is a leakage in one of my examinations and I don't know the extent of the cheating, I will invalidate that exam and have my students take another one. This would be over and above the sanctions imposed on those who were caught cheating in flagrante.

The sense that I get from all this is that people may be fighting for what they think is right. But no one really wants to prove that they did pass the board.

—PATRICK DE LOS REYES,
atyick@yahoo.com.ph

Not for Hannah to wake up

IT WAS REFRESHING to read the article of Hannah Lyn C. Creencia in Youngblood (INQUIRER, 2/17/07), in which she upheld the virtue of chastity.

There are many people, young men and women, who want to love with a Christ-like love. And it's not only girls who are called by God to save "their precious gifts" for marriage, but guys also.

No, Hannah, it's not for you to wake up, but for those of us who don't value real love and commitment.

—FR. SEÁN COYLE,
San Columbano,
PO Box 588,
6100 Bacolod City

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Abducted ex-detainee's kin seek US help

TARLAC CITY—RELATIVES OF A FORMER MARtial law detainee, who was abducted by three gunmen here on Feb. 6, have sought the assistance of the United States government in locating him.

Sam Clemente, 54, was driving his motorcycle near the gate of the Capitol Gardens Subdivision here when his path was blocked by a green Mitsubishi L300 van.

Three men alighted from the van, poked a gun at his side, handcuffed him and forced him into their vehicle. One of them drove away using Clemente's motorcycle.

The Clemente family suspected the military was involved in the abduction because of his political past.

But the military's Northern Luzon Command, which is based at Camp Servillano Aquino here, said "the military has no policy of abducting former or active political activists."

"We are not into that kind of activities," said Maj. Ferdinand Razalan, Nolcom spokesperson.

Filipino-American Godard Clemente Gozum, Clemente's 24-year-old nephew, appealed to US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney to "help locate my uncle."

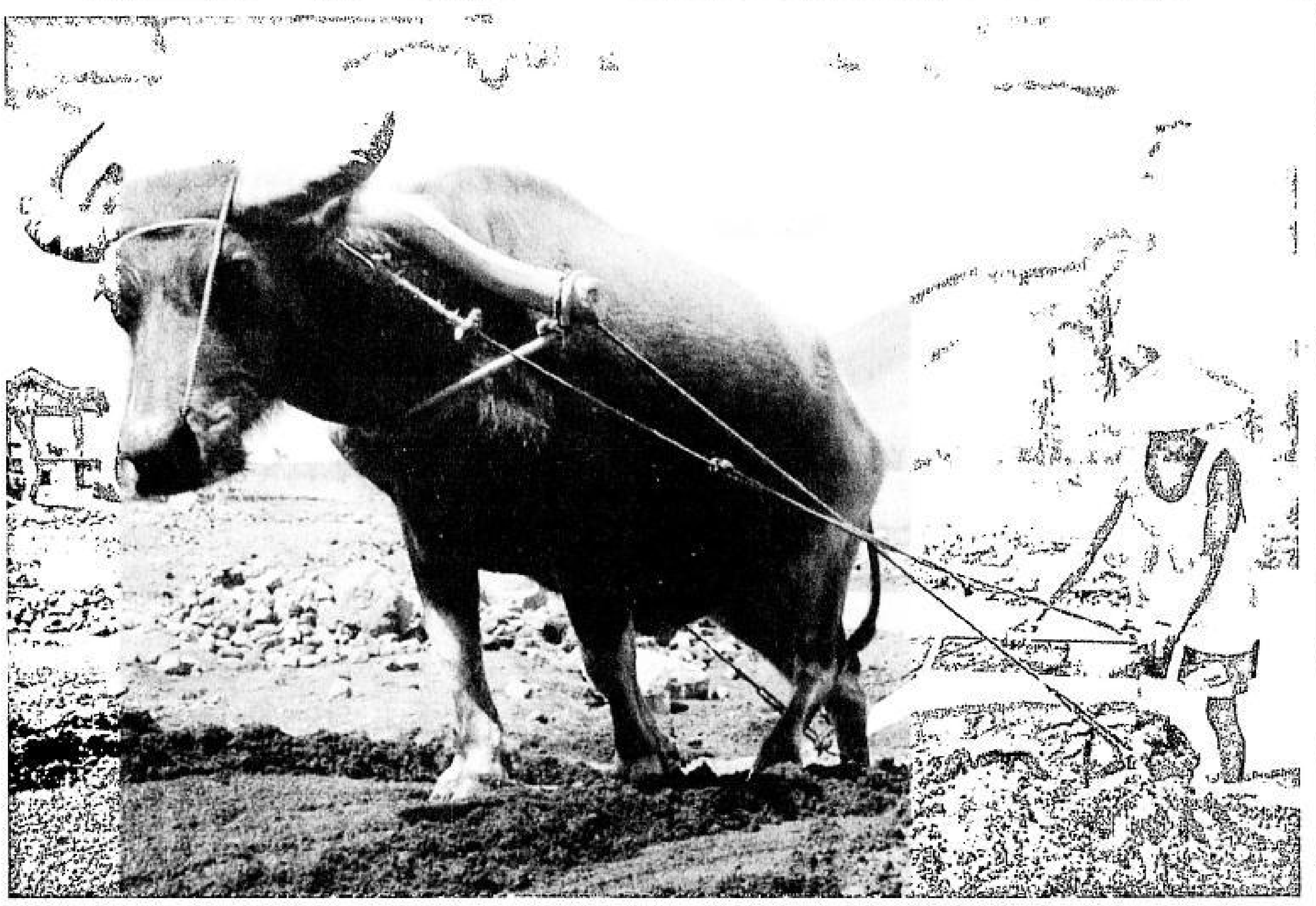
Gozum, a US Navy reservist now on vacation in the Philippines, said his family has "reasons to believe that the Philippine military is behind the abduction."

He also sought an appointment with the American ambassador.

Senior Supt. Nicanor Bartolome, Tarlac police director, has formed a task force to investigate Clemente's abduction.

Clemente, a political science graduate of Far Eastern University, has two children.

In 1972 when the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law, Clemente was arrested with thousands of political activists and Marcos critics. He was detained in Baguio City for three months and later transferred to Camp Olivas in Pampanga. He was released in December that year. *Russell Arador, Inquirer Central Luzon*



BIG HELP

NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

His carabao becomes a big help to Vicente Magayanes, 66, who gathers gravel and sand, which became abundant in Barangay Busay, Daraga, Albay after mudflow from Mayon volcano hit the village during Supertyphoon "Reming" November last year.

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Laguna mayor terminates 976 employees

STA. ROSA CITY—BARELY A WEEK after he was reinstated, Mayor Joey Catindig ordered the retrenchment of 976 contractual employees of the city government to avoid what he said was an impending long-term fiscal crisis.

Catindig said his decision came after he discovered that more than 500 casual employees were hired during the four-month stint of Vice Mayor Arlene Arcillas-Nazareno as acting mayor.

He said when he was suspended from office four months ago, the city government only had 2,696 employees.

"But when I reassumed office, I found out that there were already 3,101 employees. Another 103 have pending status. That's more than 500 new hires in just a quarter," he said.

This could entail a P74-million deficit in its annual budget, he said.

The retrenchment order took effect Feb. 16.

On Feb. 19, the affected employees went to the city hall and pleaded that they be retained.

But Catindig said if he would not act immediately on the situation, the city government would be in a serious financial crisis on the third quarter of the year when they start giving the 10-percent mandated increase for government workers.

"If we don't downsize now, the city government faces a looming bankruptcy in the third quarter. That's not an option and I cannot let that happen," he said.

Catindig said their allocation for the Christmas bonus and the 13th month pay for their employees could also be affected by the sudden hiring of additional workers.

"The hiring of new employees by Vice Mayor Nazareno has gravely put the city government into the brink of collapse, and worse put the untenured ones into uncertain situation considering that the city would fall short of finances," he lamented.

He said that of their P1.27-billion annual target, the city government only collects P900 million in revenues.

"With bloated personnel, crucial socioeconomic services imperative to the improvement of the lives of hundreds of thousands of Sta. Rosa residents—especially in health, livelihood and education—would be gravely affected," he said.

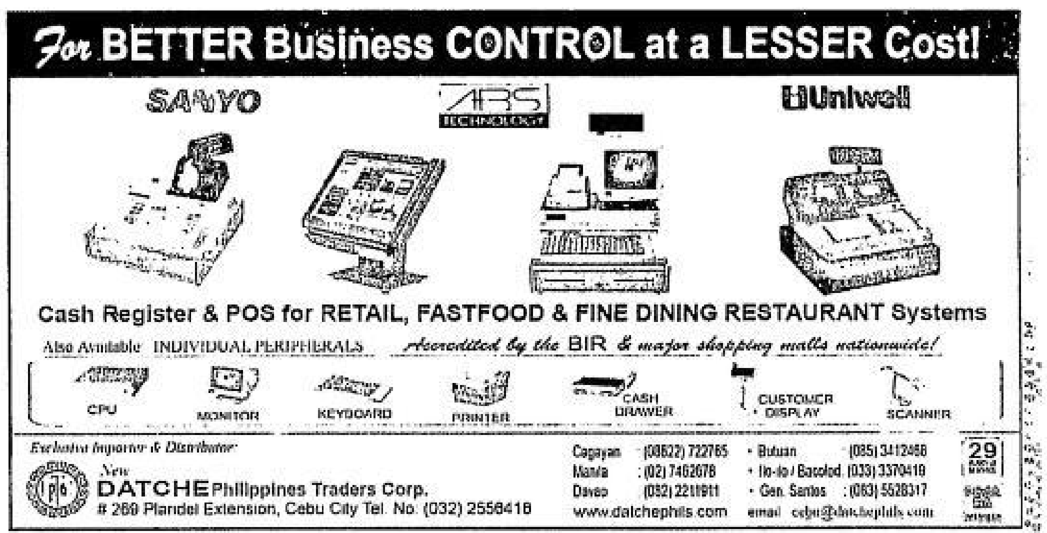
Donna Granda, head of Human Resource Management Office of the city government, said she issued a memorandum last November 2006 to Nazareno reminding her that all payrolls of personnel should pass through the HRMO as part of governance transparency system.

The then acting mayor, she claimed, just ignored it.

"I tried to set a good HRMO payroll procedure so that there would be proper validation of personnel who receive salaries from the city government. But sadly, I never got a feedback from Acting Mayor Nazareno and my request was kept to date at the bottom of nothingness," she said in a statement.

In an earlier interview with the INQUIRER, Nazareno argued that the hiring of new employees was stipulated in their annual budget which Catindig himself had approved.

She said it was obvious that Catindig's decision was laden with political motives. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*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8 areas in Ilocos under PNP watch

SAN FERNANDO CITY—SEVEN TOWNS and one city in the Ilocos have been put under the watch of the Philippine National Police as it prepares measures to maintain peace and order in the region in the run-up to the May 14 elections.

The towns of Cabugao, Cervantes, Bantay and Sta. Maria in Ilocos Sur; Balaoan in La Union; and Tayug, Natividad and San Carlos City in Pangasinan, have been declared election areas of immediate concern due to past incidents of election-related violence, said Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, regional police chief.

Bataoil has ordered the PNP's ground commanders to contain political rivalries in these areas to avert election-related violence.

He said the police are also monitoring the movements of armed groups who might offer their services as private armies or armed bodyguards of politicians.

He said the regional police have assigned officers to man the Commission on Elections' checkpoints in the region to enforce the gun ban.

According to him, policemen would also be assigned to the signing of peace covenants by warring politicians and would be sent to monitor political rallies to ensure order. *Hanna Lacsamana, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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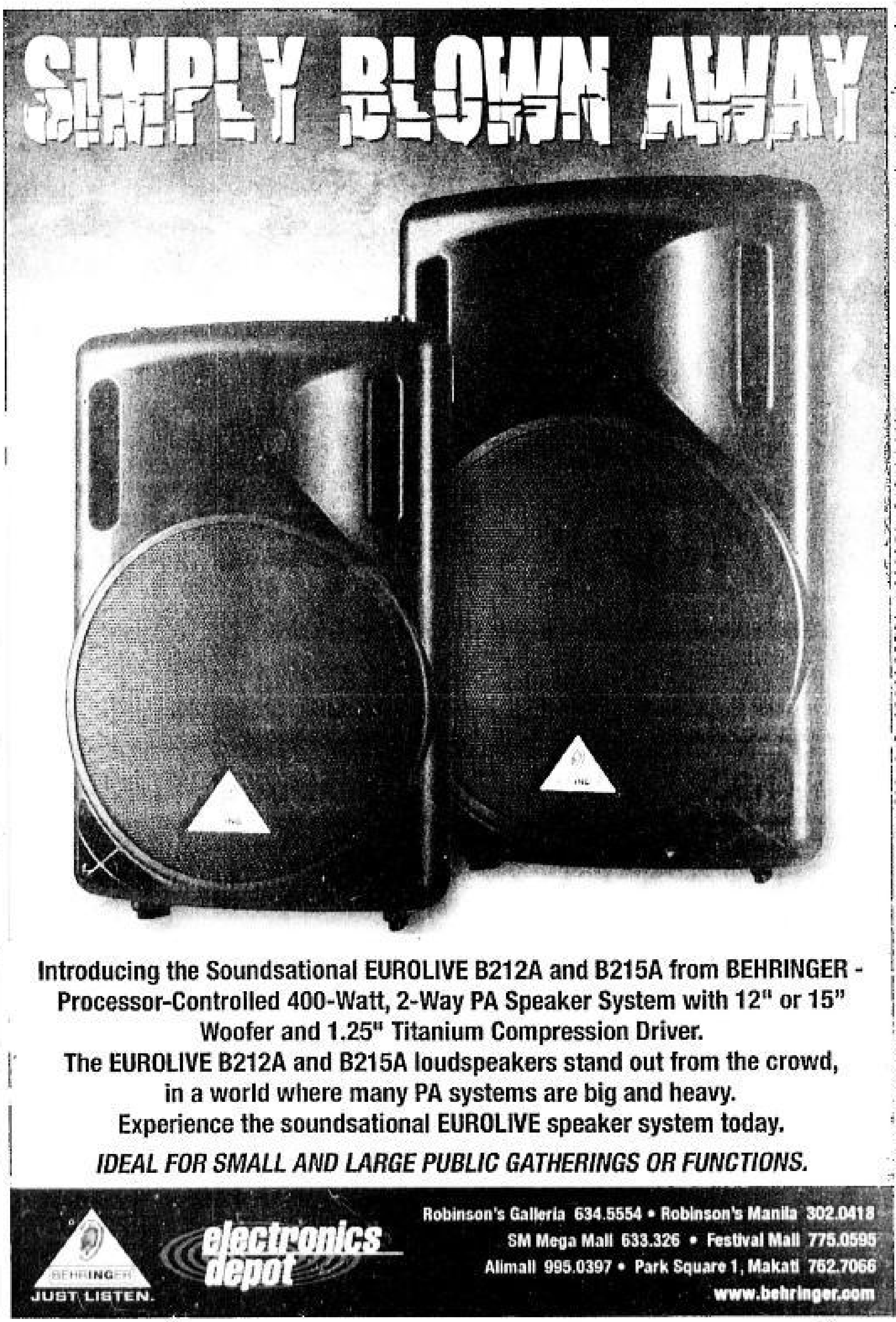
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Church starts probe of priest's rape case

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE ARCHDIOCESE OF JARO has started its investigation of the rape case filed against one of its priests to ferret out the truth.

Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo said in a statement that he has directed the Archdiocesan Tribunal to hear the allegations of a 25-year-old woman against Fr. Martin Alarcon.

"I am confident that the tribunal will investigate the matter," said Lagdameo in his statement read at a press conference yesterday by his spokesperson Fr. Excel Jaen.

Lagdameo noted that the tribunal is still conducting the investigation.

"I am waiting for its conclusion in order that I, as shepherd, may act in the best interest of truth and justice," Lagdameo added.

Jaen said this is the first time that a rape case has been filed against a priest of the archdiocese.

"We are saddened by this case. We did not want this to happen. As much as possible, we don't want this to happen again. One thing we assure you, we have taken the matter seriously," he said.

The alleged victim filed a criminal complaint for two counts of rape against Alarcon on Wednesday before the Iloilo provincial prosecutor's office.

She alleged that Alarcon raped her twice this month after she tried to end their month-long relationship.

Alarcon has remained inaccessible to reporters since the complaint was filed.

FLOWERS BY THE ROAD JOAN BONDOC
A vendor holds a bunch of flowers she is offering to tourists visiting Tagaytay City. The strip of road where the flowers are sold offers a refreshing break in the route to Tagaytay.

Contractors asked to finish SCTEx on time

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE ADVOCACY for the Development of Central Luzon (ADCL), composed of business and community leaders in the region, appealed to the two Japanese contractors of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway to augment equipment to finish the project in November this year.

Rene Romero, ADCL chair, said the delay in the opening of the SCTEx would lead to opportunity losses for the local business sector and some 700 investors at the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga, Subic Bay Freeport in Bataan and Zambales, and Luisita Industrial Park in Tarlac City.

Romero, in a phone interview, said ADCL aired the appeal as the Kajima and Obayashi joint ventures hinted of a plan to claim money for the delay.

Romero said the contract with the state-owned Bases Conversion Development Authority contains provisions that allow the contractors to claim liquidated damages worth P5 million daily and terminate the contract when the slippage (delay in work schedule) reached 15 percent.

If these happened, these would not be advantageous to the government, Romero said.

The SCTEx, a 94-km toll road, is built on a P21-billion loan from the Japanese government. The government's counterpart is right-of-way costing P500 million.

Romero said the slippage this week stood at already 9 percent.

"The problem is not with the BCDA. The contractors hired Filipino sub-contractors whose equipment are not enough or are old," he said.

He did not say who was responsible for the selection of the sub-contractors, a matter that had been controversial because a BCDA official allegedly favored those who gave "advance commissions."

BCDA Chair Narciso Abaya had said the Japanese contractors chose their own sub-contractors based on their assessed capabilities. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Cops seek transfer of detained farmers

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—THE DIRECTOR of the Calabarzon police on Thursday said he would ask the court to allow the transfer of the five detained Tagaytay farmers accused of being communist rebels.

Chief Supt. Nicasio Radovan Jr. told the INQUIRER that he would immediately file a motion before Tagaytay City Regional Trial Court Judge Edwin Larida to allow the transfer of the five to the Philippine National Police custodial center in Camp Crame.

He denied that police were violating the rights of the five alleged New People's Army rebels.

The five—Aries Sarmiento, Michael Masayes, Axel Pinpin, Riel Custodio and Rico Ybañez—have been languishing inside a cramped jail facility inside this camp since their arrest on April 28, 2006.

Radovan admitted that the prison cell, where the five detainees were being held, was small as it was not meant for a prolonged detention.

"That jail is just for temporary detention. It's not for prisoners like them," he said.

He described as lies the allegations that they had been blocking the transfer of the five to a bigger and permanent jail.

He said the Calabarzon police had actually filed a motion to transfer the prisoners to Camp Crame, which was denied by the court.

"But their lawyers and relatives blocked our suggestion. They said the five are better off here because it's nearer than Camp Crame," Radovan said.

He also assailed accusations that they were too strict to the five prisoners. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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Pol jingles called stupid, self-serving

BAGUIO CITY—AN ALTERNATIVE EDUCATOR is on the campaign trail to stop what he calls "catchy but selfish" political jingles.

"Political jingles are potent vehicles of communication. The problem is that most of the jingles coming out are stupid, selfish and self-serving," said Albert Saldajeno Jr., a theater director and motivational speaker.

"It's all name recall. What about their political agenda and program," said Saldajeno, who is also a teacher at St. Joseph's College in Manila.

"It would be a great service to the people if they can learn more about you other than your name," he said.

Saldajeno recently taught members of the Vice Mayors League of the Philippines how to compose their own political jingles. But he said he was considering boycotting the May elections.

"They seem to be all the same, even their jingles," he said. "But if they come out with their jingles, they should be like the 'pedagogical motivational songs' which are simple, engaging, educational and culture-based."

"The jingles should be creative and be able to blend entertainment and information in so short a time," he said.

One of these, which Saldajeno is using in his street plays and lectures on electoral reform, is what he calls "Ang Tatlong Unggoy ng Moralidad" or the Three Monkeys of Morality.

"*Huwag kang makinig, huwag kang tumingin, huwag kang magsalita ng masama sa iyong kapwa* (Hear no Evil. See No Evil. Talk No Evil to Everyone)," he said.

He also said that political jingles borrowed from popular songs might help in name recall but would not help much in projecting the candidate.

This is because people would rather remember the original lyrics which might be different than what the candidate would want to be known, he said.

Saldajeno, together with educator Henry Tenedero, is one of the pioneers of international learning styles of teaching which takes into account elements like music, food intake, arrangement of chairs and even temperatures in helping students learn.

He has compiled a CD of his pedagogical motivational songs which teachers can use to motivate their students.

He said he believes political jingles are necessary in campaigning, especially among Filipinos. "We are a musical nation. We have songs about everything and every activity, including planting rice," he said.

"Music is embedded in our culture. Music helps in learning and we learn better if we put them into music." *Frank Cimatu, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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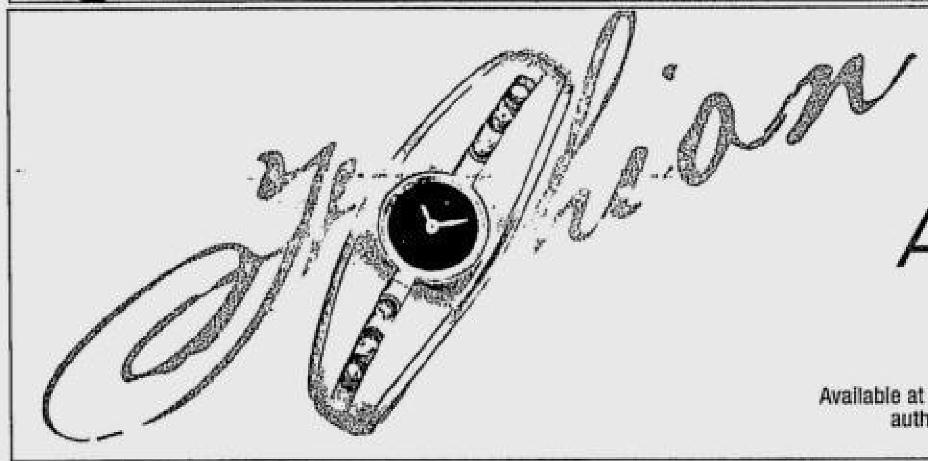
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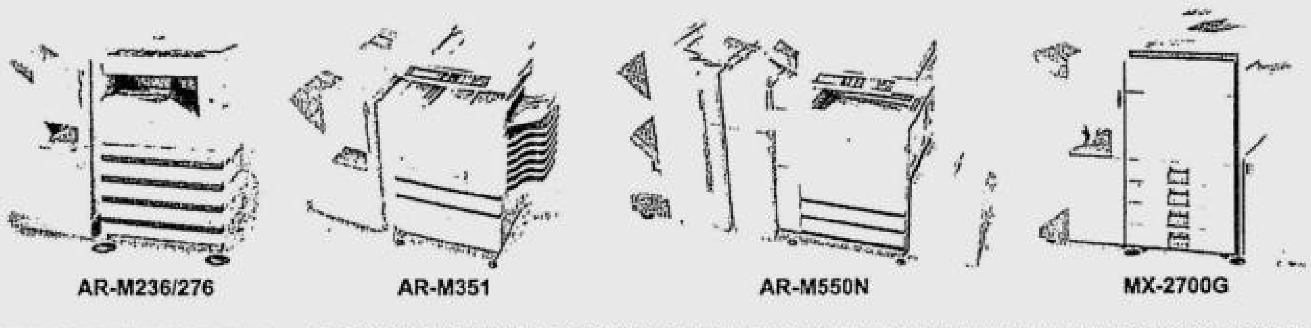
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Education revolution as new people power

From page A1

won by a landslide, borne to Malacañang by an adoring multitude.

Erap's dramatic ouster amid charges of corruption and the outburst of irrational violence that followed brought home a chilling message: Our impoverished millions—desperate, hopeless and disadvantaged—would be ignored no longer.

Despair and hopelessness are subjective emotions. Living at a disadvantage, however, is subject to change, and the quality of education an individual acquires through the years has a lot to do with it.

Full-fledged revolution

With this in the back of our minds, we at the Foundation for Worldwide People Power—Butchie Lim Ayuyao, Fely Arroyo, DJ de Jesus, P. O. Domingo, Del Lazaro, Amando Doronila and myself—set in motion a series of events five years ago that has blossomed into a full-fledged Education Revolution today.

The achievement gap between the 18 million pupils and students enrolled in the public schools today and the fortunate few whose parents can afford the tuition of high-quality private schools is so wide that these two groups of learners might as well be living in different centuries.

It is a fact that better opportunities await individuals who have had a quality education. They get to land the choice jobs, pursue fulfilling careers and generally become assets to their communities. They have the respect of their peers, and the trust and confidence of their superiors.

Indicator of quality

But what exactly contributes to quality education? Does it refer to physical facilities, such as well-ventilated and brightly-lit classrooms? How about well-stocked school libraries and a sufficient supply of textbooks?

Or does quality education pertain to the proficiency of teachers in their subjects? And what about the parents and the community that the school serves? Their involvement has long been considered a positive factor to better learning outcomes. If the pupils score well in their achievement tests, wouldn't that be an indicator of quality?

What about the values that these young boys and girls imbibe from their teachers and parents? Would these affect the quality of their learning as well?

Education experts have not yet been able to formulate a single, all-encompassing definition of education quality. However, they all say that there are two general indicators of quality.

The first, which is on the level of cognitive development, can be measured quite easily through achievement tests in subject areas, such as English, Science and Math.

The second indicator, emotional development, is much more difficult to ascertain and is largely dependent on the teacher's understanding and acceptance of her role in her pupils' character formation and the reinforcing values from the children's parents and people in the community where they live.

Biggest bureaucracy

The Philippine public education system is made up of about 41,000 schools with about an 18 million aggregate student population, more or less. A little less than 500,000 teachers teach this huge number. The entire system is run by the Department of Education, which is also the country's biggest bureaucracy.

The problems that come with just keeping this complex system afloat are staggering. Is it therefore any wonder that an average grade VI pupil today can only answer about half of the National Achievement Test correctly?

Less than one percent of all grade VI pupils managed to score a 75-percent passing mark in all subject areas tested (i.e. English, Science, Math, Filipino and HEKASI or Social Studies). The public high school seniors fared much worse, registering an achievement average of a little over 45 percent. The dropout rate is highest at grades I to III due to a number of factors, most notably malnutrition.

A SUPPORTER of People Power offers flowers to a rebel soldier during Edsa I.

PHOTO FROM THE BOOK "PEOPLE'S POWER"

Revolution on 2 legs

Their teachers are equally handicapped. It is common for high school teachers to handle subjects other than those that they majored in. Grade school teachers have to contend with really large class sizes in cramped classrooms.

To further aggravate matters, our best teachers have steadily been migrating to better paying jobs overseas.

And these are just the measurable areas.

The FWWPP launched the Education Revolution in 2002 on two legs or core programs, namely, the Community Participation Model and Mentoring the Mentors. Initially, through the Community Participation Model, we sought to encourage communities to help improve their own public schools through one-time interventions and donations. Later, the FWWPP developed a simplified three-step community organizing process focused on improving learning.

The Mentoring the Mentors program, meanwhile, started with a pilot session for the Iloilo City schools division. This program combines highly interactive motivational sessions with deeply intensive workshops on active teaching and learning strategies, including discussions on how to make better lesson plans and test construction and measurement.

57-75 Movement

Today, after five years, the People Power character of the Education Revolution has finally taken hold.

The Community Participation Model is now a cornerstone of the 57-75 Movement spearheaded by the powerful League of Corporate Foundations and the Philippine Business for Education. 57-75 seeks to make education improvement a national priority. Its name derives from these big corporate groups' collective desire to focus the manpower and resources of their respective Corporate Social Responsibility programs on education quality, as symbolized by a positive change in the National Achievement Test scores from the present 57 percent to at least a passing 75 percent within five years.

The 57-75 Movement likewise seeks to encourage education reform at the level of policy and bring the issue of quality education to the forefront of national consciousness.

The partners

The Mentoring the Mentors program has evolved equally well. This year, we have started to establish partnerships with the Good Samaritan College in Nueva Ecija, St. Joseph's College in Iloilo City, La Salle and La Consolacion in Negros Occidental, and Capitol University and Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro City.

The aim of these partnerships is to provide a learning improvement resource that the public school division near or around the partner university can draw on.

By proximity, we aim to draw in progressive principals who have embraced their role as the instructional leaders of their schools. Through the Mentoring the Mentors sessions, we aim to foster a culture of education quality among these school heads.

The partner academic institution provides just that: Academic expertise in the form of teaching strategies and techniques in the teacher's weak areas, such as in lesson planning and test construction.

Big, small make no difference

Furthermore, the partner academic institution acts as an operations base for the FWWPP's Community Participation activities at the school division level.

We must reiterate the People Power nature of the Education Revolution. All the gains that the FWWPP has made so far are just a proverbial drop in the bucket. To really make a difference, we all have to be involved. We can share experiences and learn from our successes and failures.

It does not matter if we are big and powerful, like the League of Corporate Foundations or the Basic Education Assistance for Mindanao (BEAM) funded by the Australian Agency for International Development, or small but highly motivated, like the FWWPP and the thousands of NGOs doing exemplary development work in the countryside.

What is important is that we all want help give our youth every advantage possible to succeed later on in their lives.

(Mrs. Eggie Apostol is the founding Board Chair of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power).

GMA: No more Edsas; urges use of people power to unite RP

From page A1

he died in 1989.

Sparse crowd

The celebration yesterday had a sparse crowd with none of the major actors of people power present except for Ramos.

Former President Corazon Aquino attended Mass at the Edsa Shrine at noon but she quickly left afterward.

Nearly 300 policemen were deployed at the shrine, many of them armed with truncheons and shields, anticipating a face-off with protesters.

But nobody came.

Tolerated

Ms Arroyo said the world just "tolerated" Edsa II in 2001.

It was Edsa II that allowed Ms Arroyo, who was then Vice President, to assume power when then President Joseph Estrada left Malacañang amid calls for his ouster by tens of thousands of protesters gathered at the Edsa Shrine.

She ran and won in the 2004 presidential election but was later accused by the opposition of conspiring with others to rig the polls.

Last year, an attempt at a people power revolt in which a sector of the military planned to join the people marching to Edsa failed.

FORMER President Fidel Ramos reprises the jump he made at the height of the Edsa I during yesterday's commemoration rites. With him are Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo (left) and Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

RYAN LIM

Claiming an alliance of soldiers, opposition politicians and communist rebels was plotting to overthrow her, Ms Arroyo declared on Feb. 24 a state of national emergency and demanded obedience to all her decrees and orders.

The military rounded up some leaders of the rally at Edsa, raided a newspaper identified with the opposition, and detained military officers linked to the failed coup plot. About 30 military officers are facing a court-martial.

Foreign capital

For Ms Arroyo, another people power revolt would turn back foreign and domestic capital.

"Under those circumstances, who would invest in the Philippines? How would we finally bring the gains of the economy to the average Filipino, which at the end of the day was truly meant by people power," said the President.

Change people's lives

She encouraged Filipinos to use people power to change people's lives so that the spirit of Edsa could be kept alive.

The President said the spirit of Edsa should be given a more appropriate meaning in these times.

"People power should not only be a gathering of the public united to topple an administration. Instead, just like the awardees today, we should use People Power to unite responsible citizens in establishing a stable and new nation," she said.

She said people power was about the future, not just about the past.

Pondo ng Pinoy

"People power should be about new ideas like Gawad Kalinga, Pondo ng Pinoy, and not old complaints. People power should be about fighting for a stronger nation not just fighting, and people power is about the heroism of the many who in their daily labors trust in the Almighty," the President said.

Gawad Kalinga is a highly successful housing and development project for the poor, while Pondo ng Pinoy is a program of the Archdiocese of Manila that counts on donations of as little as 25 centavos to support antipoverty initiatives.

Ms Arroyo said Filipinos should unite in support of government efforts to bring about economic recovery, calling for the public to back her tough reform policies, including new taxes, aimed at creating jobs and building infrastructure.

"These past years under our government, there was another people power that happened. This is the support of the people and sacrifice for our difficult but necessary decisions to strengthen our economy," she said.

Ms Arroyo was accompanied by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo to the People Power Monument.

Police truck

Policemen from all of the four police stations under the Eastern Police District sent civil disturbance management teams to the Edsa Shrine, about a kilometer from the monument.

A big police truck and several police cars were parked around the shrine.

Last Friday, nearly 300 protesters gathered in front of the shrine on the corner of Edsa and Ortigas Avenue, carrying posters against Ms Arroyo.

They did not have a rally permit but police officials allowed them to hold a short program. The protesters voluntarily dispersed afterward.

Church officials themselves had asked the police to keep protesters away from the shrine, fearing protest actions would desecrate the church and disturb ongoing Masses.

As of yesterday afternoon, the situation at the shrine remained peaceful.

"We have not monitored any protest actions," said John Sosito, Eastern Police District intelligence and investigation chief.

With a report from AP

At last, a museum for rare courage

From page A1

Transmission Co. (Transco), near the intersection of Edsa and Quezon Avenue in Quezon City.

The new facility is dedicated to "the nation's modern-day martyrs and heroes who fought against all odds to help regain freedom, peace, justice, truth and democracy in the country."

It was made possible by an agreement between the Center and Transco. Transco spent for the Salonga building and the landscaping in exchange for its use of a small portion of Bantayog's property where Transco built for its field personnel a small hostel that will be owned by Bantayog after 20 years. Former Transco president Allan T. Ortiz forged the agreement with Bantayog.

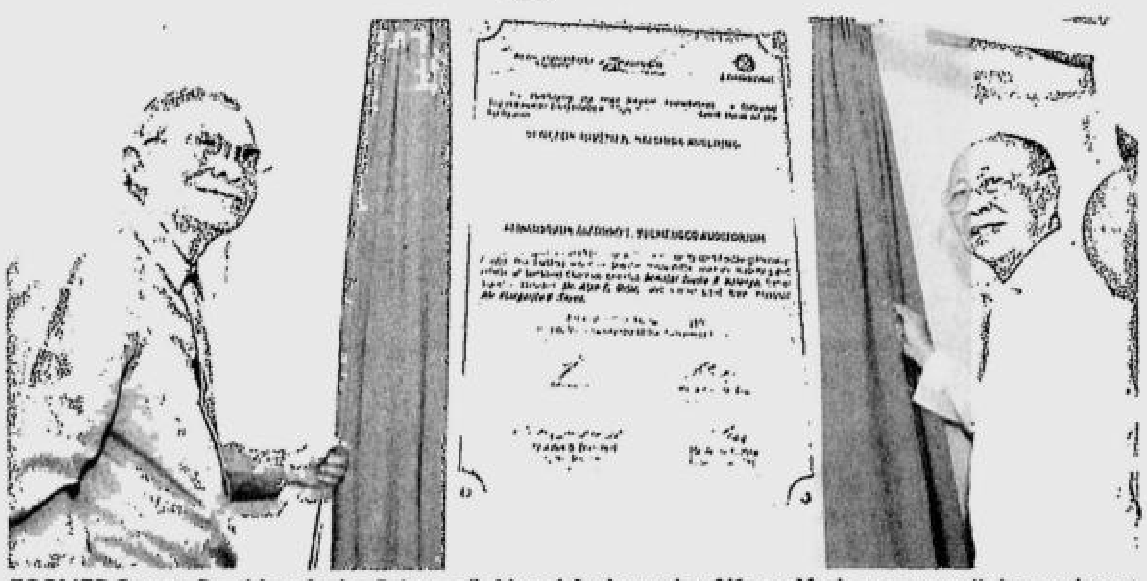
The auditorium has 72 seats, symbolic of the year 1972 when martial law was imposed throughout the country. An estimated 10,000 Filipinos are believed to have suffered and died during the Marcos dictatorship.

Bantayog's 1.5-hectare property was donated by the government, through LandBank, a year after the Marcos dictatorship was toppled and Corazon Aquino became president in 1986.

Every year, names are added to the Wall of Remembrance. The first 65 names were engraved on the black granite wall in 1992.

In his speech during the dedication rites, Ortiz pointed that Marcos ruled for 21 years (since 1965) and it has been 21 years since freedom was won through people power. Citing those he knew who died and whose names are now on the Wall of Remembrance, Ortiz asked, "Did they die in vain?"

"This should be a bastion of hope," Bantayog board chair Yuchengco added.



FORMER Senate President Jovito Salonga (left) and Ambassador Alfonso Yuchengco unveil the marker at the Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation building in Quezon City.

RODEL ROTONI

Bantayog executive director Quintin Doromal revealed that Yuchengco, former ambassador to the UN, Japan and China, knelt before Bantayog chair emeritus Salonga to plead that the building be named after the former Senate President and eminent human rights advocate. Salonga said he did not want the building to be named after himself, citing the fact that he was still alive.

Bantayog hopes to collect more archival materials and memorabilia so that these could be made available to all who want to know more about that dark era in Philippine history that drew out the best from its citizens, especially the young. The memorial center is open to those who would like to go down memory lane and honor the spirit of comrades who have passed on. The young are welcome to learn more about the generation before them, the brave generation that fought and kept vigil in the night.

At the foot of the bronze monument of a raging mother holding her fallen son, are immortal lines from "Mi Ultimo Adios" by national hero Jose P. Rizal (in Spanish, Filipino and English): "I die just when I see the dawn break/Through the gloom of night, to herald the day./ And if color is lacking, my blood thou shall take,/ poured out at need for thy dear sake/ The dye with its crimson the waking ray."

Genuine Opposition's return to Plaza Miranda a big letdown

From page A1

mounted the platform at Plaza Miranda under the banner of a "united" opposition. But this became a mockery when it presented only 11 candidates, in a slate of 12 slots. One of their bright recruits, Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, failed to show up as a "guest" candidate. The opposition squad took to the field not as a team but limping not unlike a football team going to battle with 10 players instead of 11—a big handicap in any critical game. The opposition remains undecided whether to dump Pangilinan, which is what it should mercilessly do before its campaign is crippled.

At the rally, the candidates scattered their shots on so many trivial issues, although there's no lack of big issues. A feeble attempt at putting a keynote to the issues was made by ousted President Joseph Estrada, under house arrest at his estate in Tanay, Rizal. He led the charge with a videotaped message played at the rally. He said "Don't let the Senate fall into the hands of Malacañang."

His message received the biggest applause when he told the crowd "not to forget what happened in the last election," referring to the Garcillano tapes. This indicated that the tapes were still a live issue. Although still popular with the masses, the value of Estrada as an electoral asset is in doubt. He has been the moving spirit of the united opposition, but his intervention cuts both ways. It can win votes among the converted, the anti-Arroyo partisans. But in a highly polarized division, Estrada's presence is not likely to gain votes from the pro-Arroyo voters. They cancel each other out.

From the scattered issues raised at the rally, it was dismaying that, aside from the Garci tapes, the opposition failed to capitalize on an explosive issue over which an international storm has raged following the recent release of the Melo Commission report on the wave of extrajudicial killings. This issue appears to be politically damaging to the administration and has a big potential for drawing votes from civil society voters, and the middle class, who are horrified by the killings.

The government is concerned over the backlash from the killings. This is the reason it tried to delay the public release of the Melo report until after the election. The opposition is remiss in its public responsibility in not highlighting this issue.

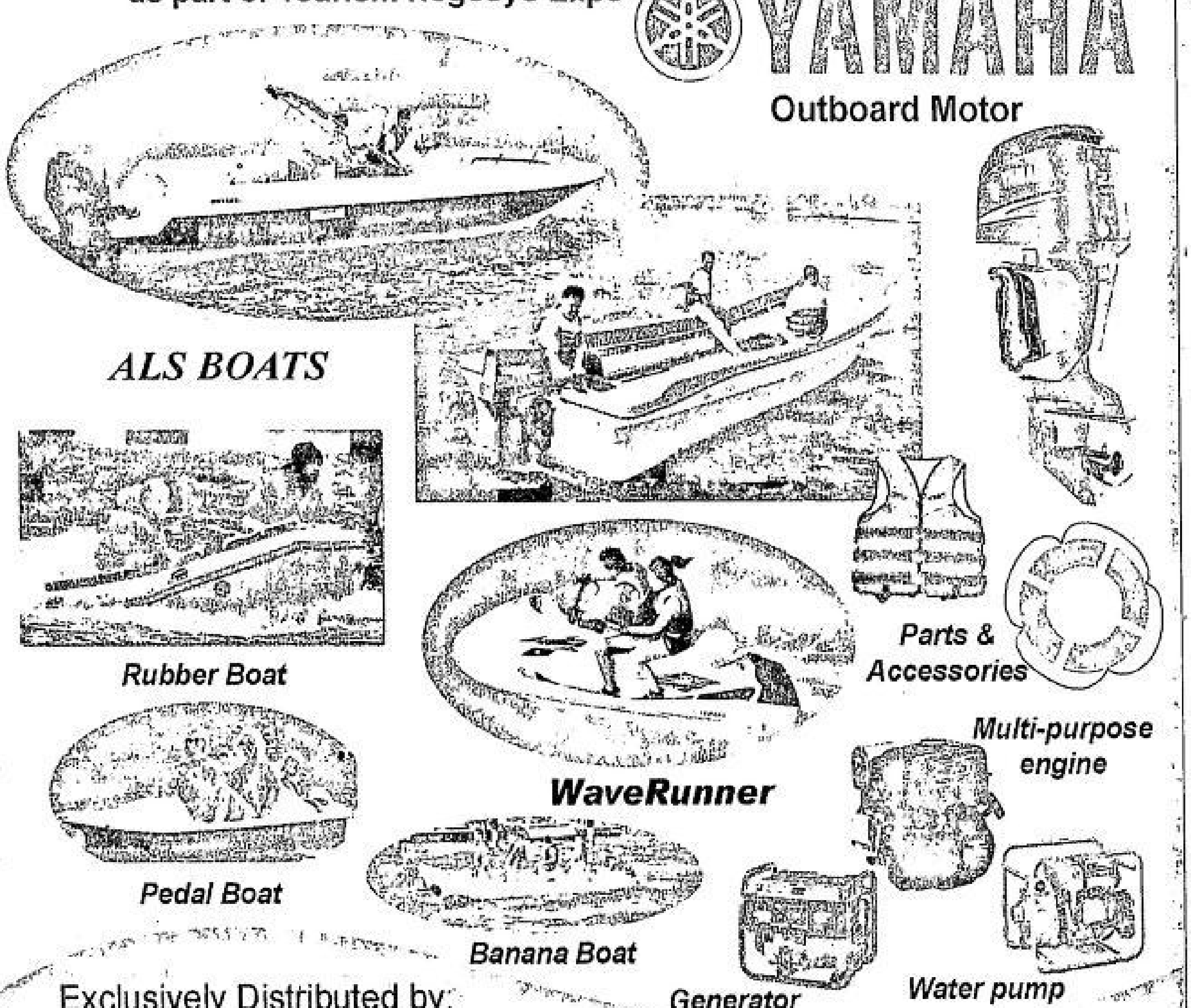
No more than 6,000 people packed Plaza Miranda at the rally, a far cry from the huge attendance during the pre-martial law years. Previously called the "Hyde Park" of the Philippines as the venue and symbol of freedom of assembly and of the press, Plaza Miranda has a gory history. Its glory days as the center of political dissent ended with the August 1971 grenade bombing (first blamed on President Marcos and later on the communists) which wounded all of the Liberal Party senatorial candidates.

The bombing marked the end of the civility in Philippine politics functioning on party competition. It led to the 1972 martial law' declaration. From the People Power Revolution in 1986, the stage of political dissent shifted ground from Quiapo to Edsa and even to Ayala Avenue in Makati City. The character of the dissent and the composition of the political players have also changed, from party-based politicians to civil society activists to mutinous soldiers.

Even Manila is no longer the traditional center of political opposition. Makati, in the grip of Mayor Jejomar Binay, has wrested the mantle from Manila. It was in Makati where the aborted coup against the Arroyo administration was to have been launched in February 2006.

What we saw in Plaza Miranda at the weekend was a tableau of political change of the forms expressing Philippine democracy over three decades and the ghost of an era. As a stage for political dissent, it has also been supplanted by TV. But the political opposition has not lost its forum with the passing of Plaza Miranda. It can take its case against the government to other venues.

Wherever it goes, it still has to hit the issues that matter most to the people. It is not doing enough of this.



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Hope shows face, tells Kris sorry but ...

From page A1

James Yap, insinuated that she could be heavy with child—just like his seven-month pregnant wife, TV host Kris Aquino.

In Hope's latest interview, her first time to face the cameras, with Lolit Solis on GMA 7's "S-Files" yesterday, she said that she wasn't sure if she was pregnant, hence, "I also deserve the same sympathy as Kris" from the public.

During the interview, Hope was covering her stomach with a throw pillow.

In an interview with Lolit for "Star Talk" on Saturday, Hope had her back to the camera and only blurred and cropped shots of her face were shown on air.

Hope then reminded Kris that "she also fell in love with the wrong men" in the past. Kris' previous two relationships were with married men, actor Phillip Salvador and comedian and former Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez.

On rival network ABS-CBN's "The Buzz," Kris was in fighting form in a taped interview also aired yesterday.

"The Buzz," which Kris co-hosts with Boy Abunda and Cristy Fermin, showed excerpts from the embattled Yaps' interview with Korina Sanchez on "Rated K," which was also aired last night.

Kris, who had just checked out of the hospital, minced no words. "How dare you say sorry to me," Kris scolded Hope. She then went on to blame Hope for her "false labor" and subsequent hospitalization last Thursday.

James echoed his wife's sentiments. "The reason why I agreed to be interviewed is because I want to clear my wife's name. There's a baby in her stomach," he said in Filipino.

A women's rights lawyer told the INQUIRER, however, that while the two women were blaming each other, James seemed to have gotten only a slap on the wrist.

TV GRAB of Kris Aquino and James Yap in an interview by Pia Guanio.

Abunda was quick to point out on "The Buzz," however, that "Kris still has many questions for James . . . But the decision to hold on and to let go is hers alone."

Kris told Korina that "staying married is a day-to-day decision."

Asked by Korina if she had forgiven James, Kris said: "Forgiveness is a process. All I can say is that I am trying [to forgive]. I didn't deserve any of this."

Korina also asked Kris' mom, former President Cory Aquino, if she had forgiven James: *"Oo naman.* [Yes.] No one is perfect."

James denied the affair on Korina's show: *"Wala kaming relasyon. Walang nangyari.* (We didn't have a relationship. Nothing happened)."

Earlier in the interview, though, James told Korina: "I admit that I've made a mistake. I didn't plan to hurt Kris. *Handa akong magbayad.* (I'm ready to pay for this.)"

Throughout the interview, it remained unclear to some viewers what it was exactly he was sorry about.

Kris also admitted that she had asked James to leave the conjugal home: *"Pinalayas ko siya."* That made James look uncomfortable, prompting Korina to ask: "Why are you sweating?"

An ABS-CBN insider told the INQUIRER that Kris had castigated GMA 7 for airing the Hope interview. According to Boy, Kris "collapsed" last Thursday after she learned that Hope had a scheduled interview with GMA 7's "Star Talk" on Saturday.

She alluded to "people with bad intentions who are feasting on what is happening . . . I admit that this is one of the saddest moments in my life," Kris told Korina.

She later became more specific: *"Galit ako sa mga tao na nag*-take advantage *sa* situation. Just because *ka-kompetensiya ako? Ilang beses ako dapat i*-crucify? (I am mad at the people who took advantage of the situation. Just because I am with the competition? How many times must they crucify me?)"

Kris' comments seemed to question local media's handling of the controversy, which is the latest "episode" in an ongoing national soap opera. The implication was that the scandal was caused by the raging network war—that GMA 7 was only interested in Hope because Kris is a talent of rival ABS-CBN.

How would Boy and Lolit assess local media's performance so far?

Mayor Vi gives way in Batangas gubernatorial race

From page A1

But the popular movie actress-turned-politician denied that her mother-in-law had intervened in the political battle that could have divided the family. She also dismissed claims that she held discussions with Ricky Recto.

"It's not true," she said, adding that the only person she had discussed the issue with was her husband, Sen. Ralph Recto. "It was just me and Ralph who've been talking. No one else."

She declined to give details, saying "I need to think things through ... I want everything to be in its proper perspective. I want to thresh out all the issues. I don't want to be too emotional," she said.

In a phone interview Wednesday, Vilma told the INQUIRER that she "would willingly step aside if it would tear our family apart." She added, however, that she "is not turning her back on the people of Batangas. I was very willing to serve and inspire them. It's just that we encountered this problem in our family."

On Thursday evening, the vice governor had announced that his sister-in-law had decided to back out of the race after his mother, Carmen Gonzales-Recto, stepped into the picture.

SANTOS

"I always said in the past that no two Rectos could go against each other in elections and it won't happen," Ricky said.

He said he had not discussed the issue with his brother. But he also said that Ralph had announced during Team Unity's rally in Pangasinan yesterday his wife's decision not to run for governor.

Go get Sanchez

Ricky further said that it was not him but the Batangueños who would benefit from the turn of events. "Let's go get Sanchez, take him down," Ricky said in a phone interview.

Asked about his platform in the coming elections, Ricky said, "No graft and corruption. No jueteng lords." He alluded to the charges of corruption he had leveled against Sanchez, a bitter political rival, 19 months ago.

The governor earlier said he was "ready to face whoever Recto is in the election."

On Tuesday, Ricky criticized Ralph for prematurely announcing Vilma's decision to run for governor even though the family had not yet discussed the issue.

Palace meddling

He also accused Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and presidential adviser for political affairs Gabriel Claudio of driving a wedge between him and Vilma.

Although they are now with different political parties—Ricky with the Genuine Opposition, Vilma and Ralph with the administration's Team Unity—Ricky promised to support both relatives in the elections.

"At least for Batangas, it cannot be 12-0 in the senatorial race," he said. He said his brother will get one slot. He also vowed to support Vilma once the three-term mayor decides to run for a congressional seat in the province's fourth district.

New ruling gives small mining firms big boost

From page A1

ing and seek the go-ahead of local government officials, who are deemed less stringent than the DENR.

"What the big companies will do is apply for 50 permits with the governor and start mining without the government's stricter guidelines to reduce the impact on the environment," said the source.

Ermita said the inconsistency in the definition of small-scale mining under PD 1899 and RA 7076 was so obvious that there could only be one conclusion—the framers of the latter intended to do away with the limits on small-scale mining.

"This legislative intent to do away with the limitation is confirmed and made more apparent if we read Section 12 of the same law, which entitles the small-scale mining contractor to mine, extract and dispose [of] mineral ores for commercial purposes without the aforesaid limitation," he said.

Justice secretary's opinion

The executive secretary also cited an opinion rendered by Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez in a Butuan City mining case in November last year.

"While repeal by implication is not favored and will not be declared unless the legislative intent is manifest, we are also aware that when an irreconcilable conflict exists between a prior law and a subsequent one covering the same field of operation, the latest legislative expression prevails and the prior law yields to the extent of the conflict," said Ermita, quoting from Gonzalez's opinion.

Mining activities that employ only manual labor and don't use heavy equipment and blasting are considered small-scale mining under both PD 1899 and RA 7076.

Based on an agreement with mine owner Olympic Mines and Development Corp. (now Citinickel Development Corp.) dated July 18, 2003, PGMC operates two mines in the municipalities of Narra and Española in southern Palawan.

But Citinickel—the mine site's beneficial owner—sought the cancellation of PGMC's operating agreement and environment compliance certificate last year because of alleged violations such as over-extraction and the use of heavy equipment.

Aside from Citinickel's complaint, Reyes had acted on the appeal of environmentalists to stop PGMC's mining operations because its over-extraction could adversely affect Palawan.

Palparan eyes seat in Congress

From page A1

common ground.

"If he runs for Congress, he could gun for party-list representation. I hope he succeeds, especially if he will fight the parties that are supporting the NPA (New People's Army). That is good for us," said Gen. Hermogenes Esperon in an interview with reporters.

Esperon, however, stressed that he had not yet heard from Palparan on what position he would seek in May. "His decision to run is a matter of personal choice and an exercise of individual freedom that is accorded to all Filipinos. If he wants to go in, I wish him luck," said Esperon.

Palparan, 56, who retired last September, was named in the report of a fact-finding commission formed by President Macapagal-Arroyo last year to investigate political murders as one of those primarily responsible for extrajudicial executions of militants.

The human rights group Karapatan has listed more than 800 victims of political violence. The INQUIRER count is 273.

Leftist groups have called Palparan "berdugo" for the large number of militants allegedly executed in regions where he had served as army commander.

It was not immediately clear which party-list group Palparan planned to join.

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales has branded five party-list groups, including Bayan Muna, communist fronts for diverting part of their pork barrel to help the NPA cause.

Determined to go after NPA

Esperon said the military was determined to go after the NPA and "anybody who will stand beside them" in the President's all-out war to wipe out the communist insurgency in the country.

But Esperon would not say whether the military would support Palparan's election bid because "you might say we are campaigning (for him)."

Esperon swore that the military would be nonpartisan in the coming elections, just like it was in the 2004 polls which was marred by allegations that he and other generals were involved in massive cheating as alleged in the "Hello Garci" tapes.

"We were really nonpartisan. These are only allegations and nobody has proven anything. If we did not do our election duties, would the elections have been peaceful? This is why they say 2004 was one of the most peaceful elections," Esperon said.

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SO THE PEOPLE MAY KNOW:

THE REAL SCORE ON GMA'S ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

OR WHY THE NATION IS WORSE OFF NOW THAN IN JANUARY 2001

Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has recently been crowing over her so called "economic gains" and bragging about her superior economic performance over the past six years when compared to Estrada's in 1998-2000. The facts, however, do not bear these out and show that these boasts are mere spins.

GMA SPIN NO.1 : The Filipino people are better off now than six years ago.
THE FACT NO.1 : The Misery Index (Rate of Inflation + Rate of Unemployment) remains higher at 17.0 today after six years of GMA than at its level of **15.5** in 2000 just before GMA grabbed the presidency from Joseph Ejercito Estrada. This is bolstered by the SWS report of December 2006 that household hunger in the Philippines reached a record high of 19% of families (or **3.3 million** households) and that **52%** of families rated themselves poor.

GMA SPIN NO. 2: The GMA Administration's EVAT has benefited the economy and the people.
THE FACT NO. 2: The tax burden has become heavier under the GMA Administration, rising from **13.0% of GDP** in 2000 to **14.8%** in 2006. Today every Filipino is paying more taxes, effectively reducing the money in his pocket and consequently reducing his overall welfare. This is made worse by the Administration's wrong priorities: first priority on debt servicing, low priority on education and healthcare.

GMA SPIN NO. 3: Education and healthcare have improved under the GMA Administration.
THE FACT NO. 3: Because she made debt servicing her top priority, GMA has neglected education and healthcare. Education spending per pupil, corrected for inflation in 2000 prices, reached its highest at **P5,830** during Estrada's short-lived term in 1998-2000 and then fell to **P5,467** during GMA's first four years (2001-2004). The consolidated national and local per capita spending on health, adjusted for inflation in 2000 prices, reached its peak at **P106** during Estrada's term and then dropped to **P90** in 2001-2004.

GMA SPIN NO. 4: The economy's growth rates under the GMA Administration are impressive and much better than those under the Estrada Administration.
THE FACT NO. 4: Per capita real GDP (or GDP corrected for inflation and population growth) grew by **7.1%** in 2000 during the last year of Estrada's truncated term. This has yet to be surpassed by GMA after six years of promising and failing. The real per capital growth under GMA has been so mediocre that it failed to make any significant difference in the lives of most Filipinos. Moreover, GMA has consistently failed to meet her own GDP growth rate targets during the past six years, except for 2004. And yet she now has the gall to promise growth rates of 7, 8, 9 per cent in the next three years!

GMA SPIN NO. 5: Foreign investments are flocking to the country, indicating increased international investor confidence in a robust Philippine economy.
THE FACT NO. 5: During the past eight years, annual inflow of foreign direct investments or FDIs reached its highest value of **US$** 2.24 billion in 2000 when Estrada was president. This level of FDI inflow has not yet been equaled by the GMA Administration. FDIs seem to have avoided the country like a plague during the past six years. In 2005, for example, the Philippines was able to attract only **US$ 1.13 B** worth of FDI inflow whereas Vietnam got **US$ 2 B**, Malaysia **US$ 3.9 B**, Thailand **US$ 4.0 B**, and Indonesia **US$ 6.1 B**.

GMA SPIN NO. 6: The Philippine economy is becoming globally competitive and is about to take off.
THE FACT NO. 6: The country's ranking in global competitiveness, as reported by the World Economic Forum, has been falling under GMA's Administration, starting from a ranking of **48** in 2000 during Estrada's term and dropping to **71** in 2006. In comparison, our neighbors garnered the following rankings in 2006: Singapore **5**, Malaysia **26**, Thailand **35**, and Indonesia **50**.

GMA SPIN NO. 7: The strength of the Philippine economy under GMA's management is indicated by the stronger peso and the more active stock market.
THE FACT NO. 7: GMA is so desperate to grasp at straws in order to be able to say something good about the economy that she chooses to ignore what they must have taught her at the U.P. School of Economics, that the exchange rate and the stock market indices are not good barometers of the health of an economy.

In the first place, GMA is trying to claim credit for the appreciation of the peso or the greater activity of the stock market when she has nothing to do with either development. The peso has appreciated because (1) the US dollar has weakened and (2) remittances from OFWs have increased due to the higher quantity and quality of OFWs deployed abroad. The latter, in turn, is caused by the shortage of employment and livelihood opportunities in the country that has resulted from GMA's failure to make the economy grow fast enough to absorb new job entrants and the existing unemployed.

In the second place, the greater activity of the stock market is caused by the increased inflow of "hot money" or portfolio investments to stock markets all over the world, which is due to a greater supply of petrodollars and lower interest rates and which has nothing to do with GMA's economic policies.

CONCLUSION

GMA's so called "economic gains" are a mirage. She has been trying to divert attention away from her dismal economic performance by bragging about, and grabbing credit for, two insignificant economic indicators - the stronger peso and the more active stock market --while covering up her failure to address the more important economic variables such as employment, prices, productivity, global competitiveness, quality education, affordable healthcare, and modern infrastructure.

From 2001 up to now, GMA has failed to equal the economic performance of President Estrada and failed to make the economy grow fast enough to make any significant improvement in the lives of most Filipinos, especially the poor. UNDOUBTEDLY, OUR NATION AND OUR PEOPLE WERE BETTER OFF DURING ESTRADA'S SHORTENED TERM THAN THEY ARE TODAY AFTER SIX YEARS OF GMA'S DISMAL ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE.

This only goes to show that, true to form, GMA continues to LIE about our country's economic indicators, CHEAT the people by trying to hoodwink them about the true state of the economy, and even tries to STEAL credit from developments that she had nothing to do with.

Sources: **BSP** (Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas)
DBM (Department of Budget and Management)
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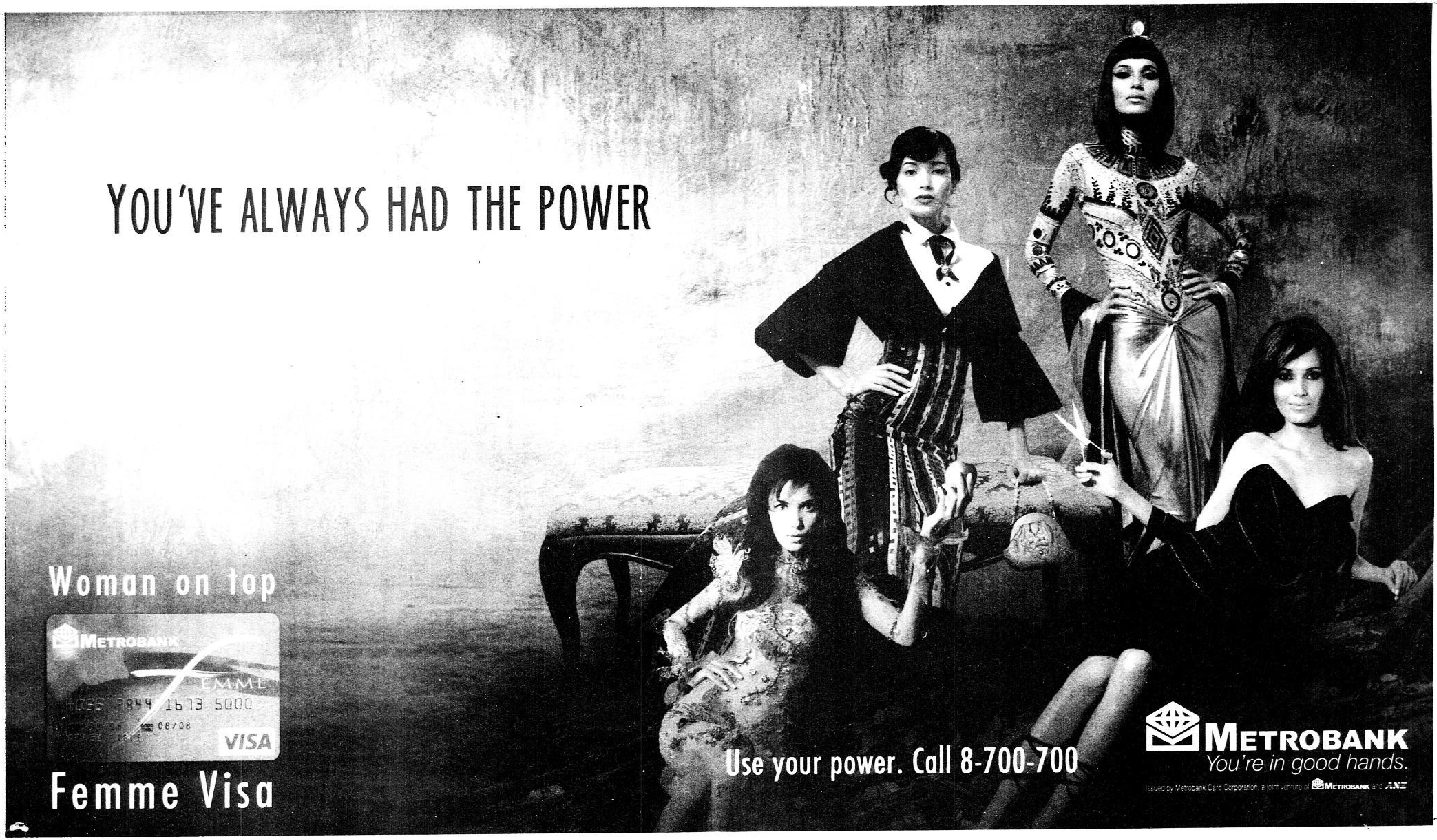
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Metro streets more deadly for pedestrians

MMDA: 190 pedestrians killed in accidents in 2006

By DJ Yap

CROSSING THE STREET IS MORE DANGEROUS than you think.

More than half of the victims of fatal road accidents in the metropolis last year were neither drivers nor passengers but pedestrians, records from the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority showed.

Contrary to common perception that road accidents mostly involve motorists, MMDA officials found that people walking in the streets tend to figure more in deadly vehicular mishaps than those riding in cars or motorcycles.

Based on MMDA's 2006 annual report called "Metro Manila Accident Reporting and Analysis System," slightly more than half—or 51.21 percent—of those killed in road mishaps last year were pedestrians.

Drivers comprised more than 30 percent of the total, while passengers were the luckier group, accounting for only 11 percent, the figures showed.

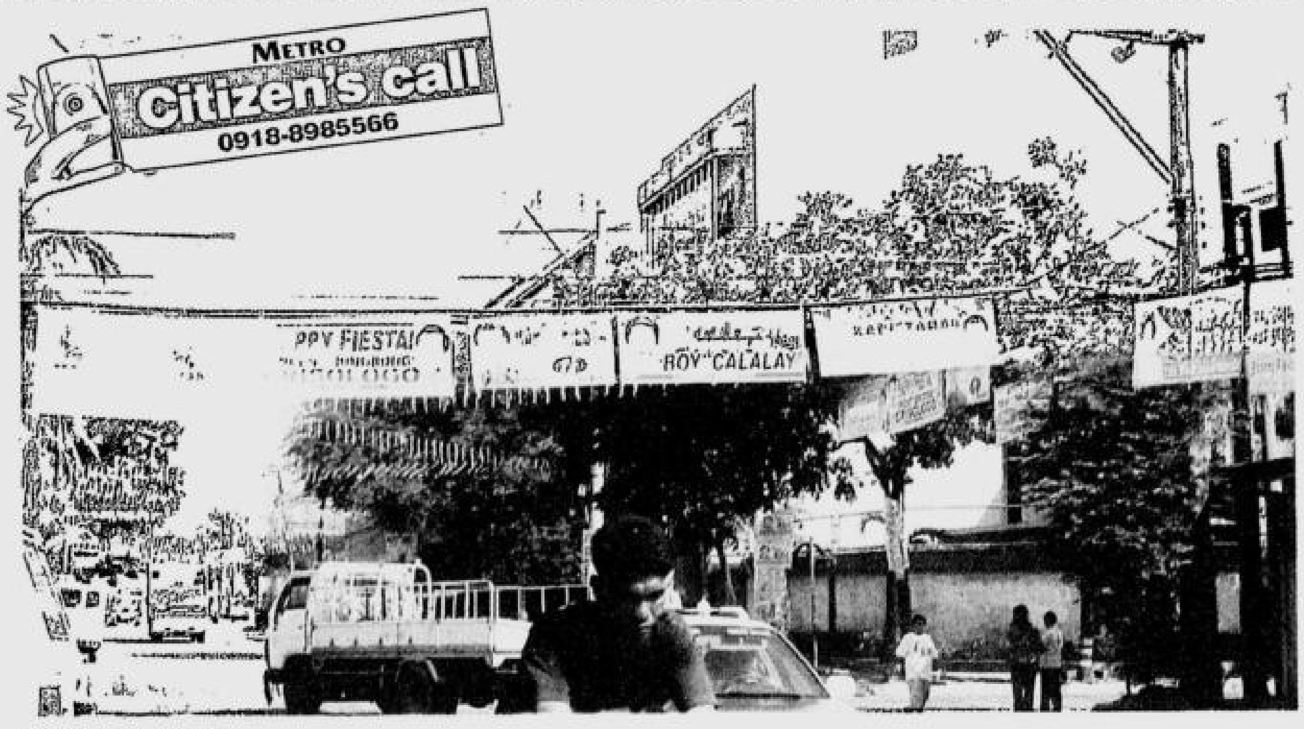
Out of 371 fatalities from road mishaps, 190 were pedestrians, 137 were drivers, and 44 were pedestrians, the records showed.

In terms of injuries, however, the numbers showed a different story: More drivers were wounded compared to passengers.

Out of 13,972 people who were injured last year, 5,128 or 36.7 percent were drivers. Passengers, on the the other hand, constituted 32.24 percent of the total with 4,505 victims. Pedestrians comprised slightly less than a third of the total at 31.05 percent or 4,339 injured persons, the data showed.

The figures also revealed that Quezon City remained the deadliest place for both motorists and pedestrians with 124 fatalities. On the other hand, the southern part of Metro Manila, which includes Makati City, had 93 victims.

The eastern and northern portions of the metropolis were third and fourth with 56 and 52 fatalities, respectively, while in Manila, 46 persons were killed, the numbers showed.



FIESTA FEVER
INQUIRER columnist Ceres P. Doyo sent this observation to Metro Citizen's Call: Are these streamers with politicians' pictures exempted from the ban imposed by the Commission on Elections on campaign materials posted in non-common poster areas? Streamers with fiesta greetings can be seen in so many places in Barangay San Jose, Quezon City. The San Perpetua Parish will soon be celebrating its patron saint's fiesta and like so many places, is infested with unsightly streamers.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY CERES P. DOYO

METRO Citizen's call

0918-8985566

NO STREET lights on Merced corner Perdigon Streets in Paco, Manila. Vagrants defecate there while snatchers are on the prowl for potential victims. Please keep students safe, especially those who use the streets on their way home at night.

—MARK, 44, Merced, Paco, Manila

Each time I pass by Rizal Avenue Extension near the corner of 3rd Avenue going toward Monumento, I see a male "taong grasa" (hobo) lying on the pavement beside Papermart. The man, who has been there for a month now, is obviously sick. Calling the attention of authorities at the Department of Social Work and Development or other government institutions or agencies involved in helping homeless people.

—ROMY QUE, 53, Caloocan City

The traffic on G. Puyat Avenue in Makati City gets worse when traffic enforcers are on the job. Some traffic lights don't work so this adds another 10 minutes to travel time. Hope the people concerned can do something about this.

—JOSH, 21, Mandaluyong City

There should be a law prohibiting politicians from putting their names and pictures on government projects and property in the community. It is their job to implement projects for the people and not to brag about it. The people are spending for these signs, billboards, logos, etc. If we would compute the cost of all these projects nationwide, the public must be spending hundreds of millions of pesos just for these personal advertisements. Some politicians even put their names on lamp posts, overpasses and garbage trucks. Filipinos are educated, stop fooling us!

—ELBERT DE GUZMAN, 36, Makati City

DID YOU KNOW

CLUB Filipino, a country club in Greenhills, San Juan, is where Corazon Aquino took her oath as president on Feb. 25, 1986, the last day of the People Power Revolution. Members of the military had tried to persuade her to hold the ceremony at Camp Crame for security purposes. But Aquino declined, saying a lot of human rights violations had taken place inside the camp. She said she preferred Club Filipino because it was "a neutral place."

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

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Hope floats in Parañaque City's slums

By Julie M. Aurelio

INSIDE THE MULTINATIONAL VILLAGE AND Better Living Subdivision (BLS) in Parañaque City, concrete houses with tiled roofs are just a stone's throw away from a shanty where 13-year-old Ana Marie lives with her family.

To put food on the table for her and her other siblings, Ana Marie's mother takes on odd jobs.

Ana Marie's aunt, the mother of her 14-year-old cousin Alvin, is in the same boat. She works as a laundry woman, offers manicure and pedicure services or sells food to her neighbors.

But in the two subdivisions, a group has been trying its best to help the poor by easing the financial burden of parents, thus assuring their children of a brighter future.

From a nonprofit organization distributing toys to street children in 2001, the Urchins Street Kids has been sponsoring the education of poor children enrolled in public schools in Parañaque City.

"We decided to support the schooling of these children a year after we were formed. We want them to develop an interest in studying so they will be able to eventually finish school," said Pilipinas Buenaventura.

Buenaventura is a staff member of Urchins that was founded in 2001 by French philanthropist Aurore Prudent-Roiland.

Poor people live here, too

"Most people would think that these subdivisions are just for rich people. But there are many poor families who live here, too," she added.

Roiland first came to the Philippines 11 years ago. She decided to stay for good and eventually put up a foundation so children born to poor families would be able to finish their studies.

Urchins' funds come from its mother organization in France headed by Roiland's father-in-law, Roger.

"At first, we got donations from our families, then from friends. Today, even companies here in the Philippines are helping us out," explained Aurore.

She could have picked any other country to put up her organization, but Aurore said she chose the Philippines because she wanted to change the country's image overseas.

"In Europe, we don't talk much of the Philippines except when the conversation turns to sexual tourism and the Abu Sayyaf," she added. "I want to present a new view of the country and its people, I want people in Europe to see these kids and how they go through a lot of struggles just to be able to study."

From a group of 20 children in 2001, Urchins now cares for 125 children who come from pockets of poverty in BLS and Multinational Village.

Among them are cousins Alvin and Ana Marie, who are both in their first year of high school at the Dr. Arcadio Santos National High School, a local public school.

The students' yearly school expenses, including tuition and other miscellaneous fees, are shouldered by the organization.

"The people from Urchins even help us with our homework. A tutor is assigned for each grade level to help us with the assignments," said Alvin in Filipino.

Honor students

Of the nine Urchins "scholars" in 2006, two have already graduated from the high school with honors.

Rose Maria Gurrubat, who was the class valedictorian, also grew up in the subdivision's slums. From time to time, she takes a break from her tourism studies at the Far Eastern University where she is a full scholar—and goes back to Urchins to do volunteer work.

The first honorable mention of the class, Marjorie de los Reyes, is enrolled in a management course, also at the FEU.

"We also give out a special award each year to a poor but deserving student," Buenaventura added.

But the task of giving the kids an education is not easy without the support of their parents. At the same time, there were also parents who would force their children to drop out of school and work.

"The children who stay for a long time in Urchins are those whose parents really want them to finish school," said Buenaventura.

Sometimes, irate parents get angry with her for disciplining their child. "But really, we don't care as long as our group is able to produce a valedictorian or a doctor."

Urchins is not all about studying, however. The nongovernment organization also conducts play therapy for its young wards. Playtime includes basketball games and chess matches.

On other days of the week, the group's 15 staff members give art lessons, teaching papier maché and other crafts.

The staff also holds dance classes where natural dancers like Alvin teach other children the latest moves.

URCHINS Street Kids, a nonprofit organization which was formed in 2001, is sponsoring the education of 125 poor children in two subdivisions in the city.

PHOTOS BY EDWIN BACASMAS

Alvin says he wants to be a professional dancer and join a dance group like the Streetboys.

"I'm not sure if I'll be able to finish school, but if I do, I want to become a seaman and go abroad with my cousin (Ana Marie)," he adds.

Ana Marie likewise shares her cousin's dream of working outside the country. She wants to take up tourism in college and be a flight attendant someday.

Hopes for a better life keep the children in school, struggling to take their lessons to heart every single day.

"We want to offer them hope by giving them the right opportunities," said Aurore.

For Alvin, the prospect of a better life appears not to be a distant dream when he finally finishes school and becomes a seaman.

His gaze wanders from the shanties to the nice houses across the street. "Someday I'll build a big house in this place. Right beside those fancy houses," he said.

"WE WANT to offer them hope by giving them the right opportunities," says Urchins founder French philanthropist Aurore Prudent-Roiland.

Infectious diseases cause more than
11 million deaths each year.

Tuberculosis (TB) is one of the leading causes of death from infectious disease worldwide. It represents a significant healthcare challenge, particularly in developing countries.

In the Philippines, TB is the 6th leading cause of death, accounting for more than 26,000 deaths.*

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*Reference: Department of Health. Health Statistics. Ten Leading Causes of Mortality by Sex, Number, Rate/100,000 Population and Percentage, Philippines 2003. Available at: www.doh.gov.ph. Accessed 29 January 2007.

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Cops on motorcycles to go after robbers

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

MOTORCYCLE-RIDING POLICEmen against motorcycle-riding robbers.

This is the solution the police came up with to the rash of highway robberies victimizing bank customers who had just withdrawn big amounts of money, according to Eastern Police District director, Chief Supt. Luizo Ticman.

According to Ticman, he has already sought the help of local officials in the eastern part of the metropolis in getting additional motorcycles for his men. Pasig City recently donated 10 motorcycles to the Pasig City police, he said.

The EPD has jurisdiction over the cities of Pasig, Marikina, Mandaluyong and the small town of San Juan.

Tomorrow, police officials will also hold a dialogue with bank owners and managers in Mandaluyong City, Ticman said.

"We are hoping they will cooperate with us in ensuring the safety of their customers," Ticman told the INQUIRER.

Pasig City police officials last week held a dialogue with bank managers in the area to remind them to beef up their security amid the rash of highway robberies. But of the 80 banks invited to Tuesday's meeting, only 13 sent representatives. Police also found out that at least 18 of the 168 banks in Pasig did not have closed circuit television cameras in their establishments.

Boy drowns in river

By Allison W. Lopez

THE BODY OF A 9-YEAR-OLD boy was found floating in the murky waters of Pasig River yesterday morning.

Anthony Villa Rempillo, a Grade 1 student of Pedro Zamora Elementary School, was believed to have drowned last Saturday while taking a dip in the river with friends.

Rempillo, a resident of Muelle dela Industria in Binondo, Manila, was swimming at around 9 a.m. near the Del Pan bridge in Binondo when he disappeared.

His body was later discovered by Gene de Leon, a resident of Tondo, in front of the Philippine Port Area Control Center in North Harbor, Manila.

Police said that although there were no signs of injuries on Rempillo's body, an autopsy will be conducted to determine the cause of his death.

INQUIRER records show that since 2000, 11 children have drowned while swimming in Pasig River. Chief Insp. Alejandro Yanquiling, Manila Police District Homicide Division chief, said he is unaware of any law or ordinance banning swimming in the river.

QC street has new name

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A STREET IN QUEZON CITY HAS been renamed after a saint.

Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. has signed into law an ordinance which renamed Sunnyside Drive in Barangay Kristong Hari to St. Peter Julian Eymard Drive.

The passage of the ordinance coincided with the 50th foundation anniversary in the Philippines of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, which St. Peter Julian Eymard founded.

The priest, who was born in France in 1811, started the religious order of priest-adorers of the Blessed Sacrament. They later became known as the Priests of the Holy Eucharist.

The ordinance, which was approved on third and final reading last Jan. 22, took effect earlier this month.

Highest terror threat since 9/11 raised in Britain

PROTESTERS continue to mass in Trafalgar Square after the "No Trident, Troops Out of Iraq" demonstration in London Feb. 24. REUTERS

LONDON—THE THREAT OF A terrorist attack in Britain by home-grown Islamists is at its highest since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, The Sunday Telegraph newspaper said, citing a secret government report.

British-based operatives loyal to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network numbering potentially more than 2,000 are planning suicide attacks against "soft" targets, the document said, according to the weekly broadsheet.

The number is far greater than was previously thought by the security services.

"The scale of al-Qaida's ambitions towards attacking the UK and the number of UK extremists prepared to participate in attacks are even greater than we had previously judged," the document said, according to the newspaper.

"We still believe that AQ (Al-Qaida) will continue to seek opportunities for mass casualty attacks against soft targets and key infrastructure. These attacks are likely to involve the use of suicide operatives."

The document said that "attack planning" against Britain was to increase this year, The Sunday Telegraph reported.

Britain was rocked in July 2005 when four British Islamists carried out suicide attacks on London's transport system, killing themselves and 52 others, the first such attacks in the kingdom.

The secret report said al-Qaida, which was behind the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on New York and Washington, had a foothold in almost every majority-Muslim country.

Entitled "Extremist Threat Assessment," it said that Afghanistan was expected to overtake Iraq as the hotbed for terrorists plotting attacks against Western forces.

The US-led 37-nation coalition in Afghanistan is expecting to face a renewed assault on its forces by the Taliban, which was ousted from power following the 2001 attacks on the United States.

"With violence in Afghanistan intensifying, and therefore receiving greater media attention, the country may well become more attractive as a venue for foreigners wishing to fulfil their jihad ambitions," the document said.

A senior political source told the newspaper that the outlook was "particularly bleak and unlikely to improve for several years." *AFP*

Truck bomb attack outside mosque in Iraq kills 40 people

BAGHDAD—US FORCES BOMbarded parts of southeast Baghdad after dark on Saturday, while a truck bomb attack outside a Sunni mosque in western Iraq killed at least 40 people.

Iraqi President Jalal Talabani, meanwhile, added his voice to those of thousands of street protesters in denouncing US forces after they arrested the son of one of the country's top Shiite leaders.

"American aircraft are bombarding terrorist targets that have been chosen by US and Iraqi forces, as part of our Baghdad security plan," said Brigadier General Qasim al-Mussawi, spokesperson for the operation.

But a resident of the area told AFP that insurgents had fired mortar shells and that US troops appeared to have responded with artillery.

US spokespersons were not immediately willing to comment, but AFP reporters in downtown Baghdad heard the rumble of more than three dozen powerful blasts in rapid succession at around 10 p.m.

A senior Iraqi interior ministry official told AFP the strikes were aimed at insurgent strongholds in Bo'aitha, a sparsely populated neighborhood on the west bank of the Tigris, south of the city center.

The blitz followed a day of bombings and mortar attacks in the capital that left at least 20 people dead, among them eight Iraqi police commandos who were killed in an insurgent assault on a checkpoint near the city's airport.

A booby-trapped fuel tanker detonated outside a Sunni mosque in the western Iraqi town of Habbaniyah, adding to the day's casualties, with a local medic reporting at least 40 people killed and 64 wounded.

The late afternoon blast in Habbaniyah was caused by a suicide bomber, the US military said in a statement, adding that the device had exploded "near a school, an Iraqi police station and a mosque."

Saturday also saw a surge of anti-US sentiment in Iraq sparked by the brief arrest the previous day by US forces of Ammar al-Hakim, son of powerful Shiite politician Abdel Aziz al-Hakim. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Venezuela spending on arms soars to world's top ranks

CARACAS, VENEZUELA—Venezuela's arms spending has climbed to more than $4 billion through the past two years, transforming the nation into Latin America's largest weapons buyer and placing it ahead of other major purchasers in international arms markets like Pakistan and Iran. Venezuelan military and government officials here say the arms acquisitions, which include dozens of fighter jets and attack helicopters and 100,000 Kalashnikov assault rifles, are needed to circumvent a ban by the United States on sales of American weapons to the country. They also argue that Venezuela must strengthen its defenses to counter potential military aggression from the United States. "The United States has tried to paralyze our air power," Gen. Alberto Muller Rojas, a member of President Hugo Chavez's general staff, said in an interview, citing a recent effort by the Bush administration to prevent Venezuela from acquiring replacement parts for American F-16s bought in the 1980s. *NYT*

Deaths in Palestinians' feud raises fears of new violence

JERUSALEM—Five Palestinians were killed and more than 40 wounded in fighting between clans Friday and early Saturday in Khan Yunis, a town in the southern Gaza Strip. Though the clashes were being portrayed in the Palestinian news media as a feud between families, they also took on a factional hue, since one of the families is identified with Hamas and the other with its political rival, Fatah. The deaths raised fears of a possible round of revenge killings and renewed factional fighting between Hamas and Fatah after two weeks of relative calm. The fighting between Hamas and Fatah, which had killed almost 100 people in the Gaza Strip since December, eased after leaders of the groups signed an agreement in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, on Feb. 8 to share power in a proposed national unity government. *NYT*

Man charged with theft of up to 300 cars

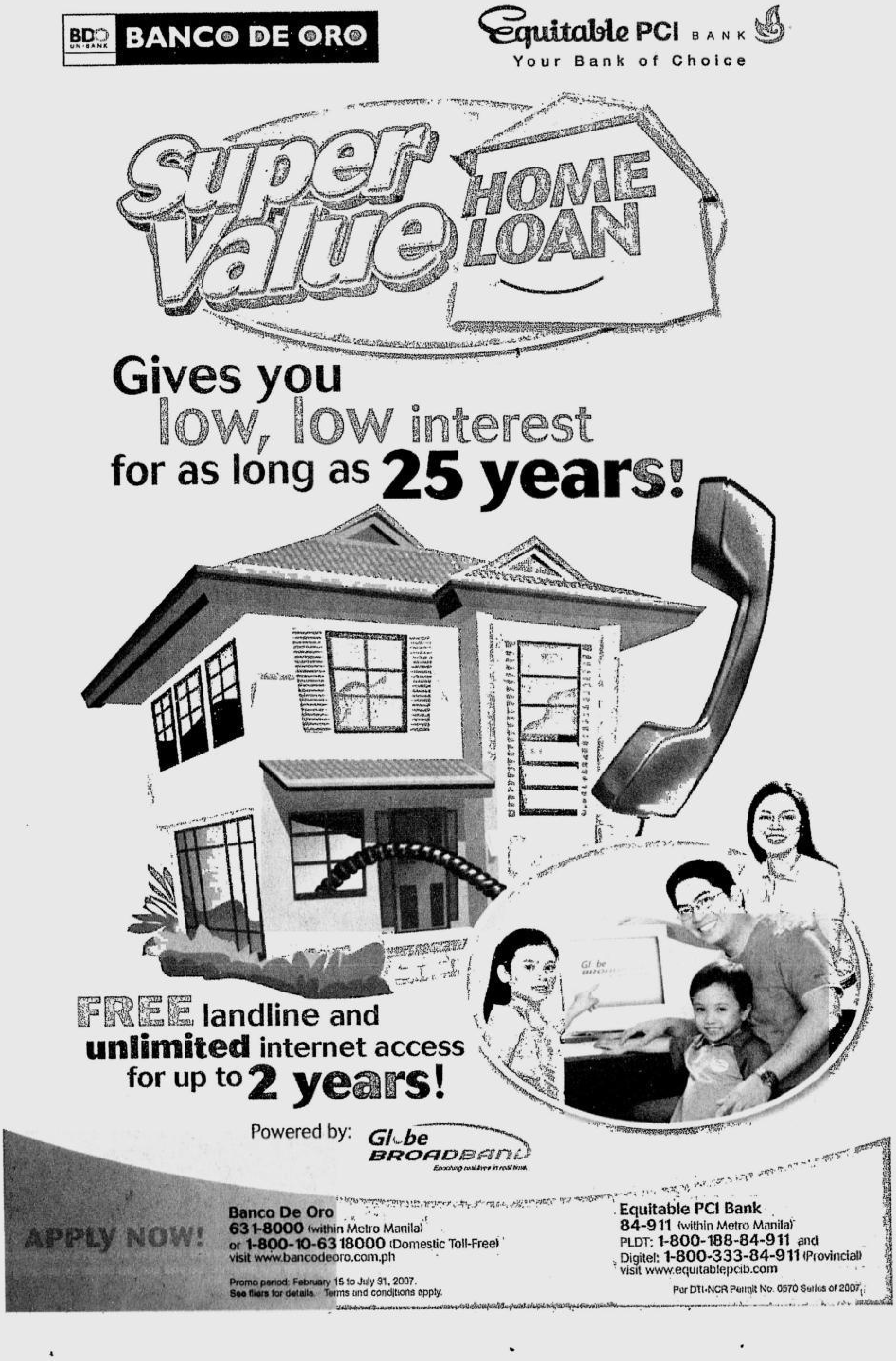
SEATTLE—Three cars a week, sometimes four. Usually nice ones. Even a patrol car now and then. He said he stole them for the thrill, and because he was high. Part methodical technician, part methamphetamine addict, part parts scavenger, Taylor J. Norton, 22, had a way with getting away with it, the authorities say. Until now. "He says he stole 200 to 300 cars," said Rebecca Hover, a spokesperson for the sheriff's office in Snohomish County, north of Seattle. "Whether he's correct we don't know yet. This is what he's telling us. His attention to detail has been quite clear and concise so far." *NYT*

Blair ignored Chirac's warning of Iraq 'disaster'

LONDON—A top aide to Tony Blair said the British prime minister ignored French President Jacques Chirac's warnings that invading Iraq would have "disastrous" consequences, The Observer newspaper reported Sunday. Sir Stephen Wall, formerly Blair's chief policy advisor, said Blair and his influential then-press chief Alastair Campbell deliberately misrepresented France's opposition to invading Iraq to justify going ahead with the operation. The comments were made in "A Man With A Mission," the second installment in the three-part BBC television documentary "Blair: The Inside Story," to be aired Tuesday. Wall said Blair's actions meant there was no chance of a United Nations compromise to avert the US-led invasion, which took place in March 2003. *AFP*

Prodi keeps job as PM

ROME—Romano Prodi will remain as Italy's prime minister but must face a confidence vote in parliament, President Giorgio Napolitano announced Saturday in a move to end a three-day-old political crisis. "It seemed clear that there was no concrete alternative (to a vote of confidence), especially in the Senate," where Prodi's nine-party coalition has only a one-seat advantage, the president said. The 67-year-old Prodi, who offered to resign Wednesday after only nine months in office, is likely to face the confidence vote on Thursday, Italian media said. While the Senate vote will be on a knife edge, Prodi is assured of prevailing in the lower house, where he has a built-in 30-seat majority. *AFP*



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Iran says it is ready for anything the US does in nuke row

TEHRAN—IRAN IS READY FOR ANYTHING THE UNITED STATES does to stop its nuclear program, Tehran's foreign minister said on Saturday after the United States maintained it was keeping "all options on the table."

The five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council plus Germany will meet in London next week to discuss whether to strengthen sanctions on Iran after it failed to meet a UN deadline to halt uranium enrichment.

Iran insists it has the right to nuclear power to generate electricity, but the West suspects Tehran is really trying to build an atomic arsenal.

While US leaders say they want a diplomatic solution to the nuclear dispute with Iran, Washington officials are careful not to rule out military force to stop the Islamic Republic.

"We are ready for any possible option taken by America," Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki told reporters.

Once seen as vulnerable, squeezed between a US military presence in both Iraq and Afghanistan, Iran is increasingly confident now that the Iraqi and Afghan insurgencies have tied up the United States in increasingly costly wars.

"We do not see America in a position to impose another crisis on its tax-payers ... by starting another war in the Middle East," Mottaki said.

But US Vice President Dick Cheney, in talks with Australian Prime Minister John Howard, said the United States and its allies were pursuing diplomacy as their preferred course on Iran but repeated that "all options were on the table." "We believe it would be a serious mistake if a nation such as Iran were to become a nuclear power," he told reporters in Sydney.

The Weekend Australian newspaper reported on Saturday that Cheney had endorsed US Republican Senator John McCain's proposition that the only thing worse than a military confrontation with Iran would be a nuclear-armed Iran.

Britain's Daily Telegraph, citing an unnamed senior Israeli defense official, said on Saturday that Israel had sought US permission to use an "air corridor" in Iraq if the Jewish state decided to launch air strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities.

"We are planning for every eventuality, and sorting out issues such as these (airspace passage) are crucially important," the Daily Telegraph quoted the Israeli official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, as saying.

"If we don't sort these issues out now we could have a situation where American and Israeli war planes start shooting at each other," he said.

But Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Ephraim Sneh denied the report. "No such approach has been made—that is clear," he told Israel Radio.

"Those who do not want to take political, diplomatic, economic steps against Iran are diverting attention to the mission we are supposedly said to be conducting," Sneh said.

Iran says it wants to negotiate with the Europeans and even Washington but refuses to give up its right to enrich uranium guaranteed by the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

"We want the London meeting to make a brave decision and resume talks with Iran to find a way to preserve Iran's right," Mottaki said.

Western nations say the fact that Iran kept its nuclear program secret for 18 years until 2002 and its lack of cooperation with UN inspectors show its ill intent.

The London meeting of Security Council members could add a travel ban on senior Iranian officials and restrictions on non-nuclear business to existing sanctions banning of transfers of nuclear technology.

But harsher sanctions could face serious obstacles, as Russia, China and some EU powers prefer further dialogue with Iran to Washington's push to isolate and punish. *Reuters*

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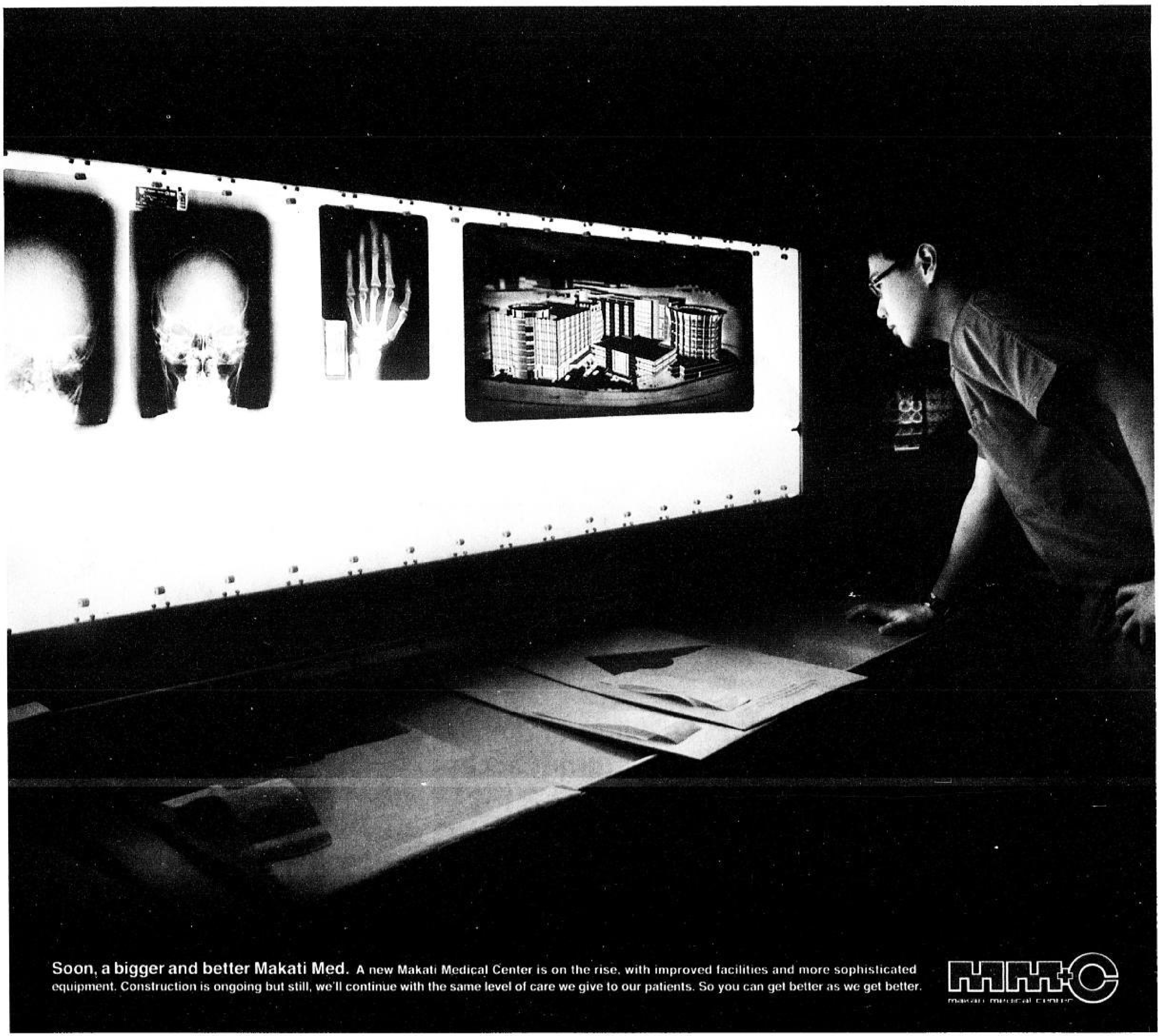
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Mavs stretch home win run

/A32

Chot: We can beat the Chinese

Defeating Asian power a matter of 'how,' not 'if'

CHINA'S Yao Ming (left) disputes possession with the RP team's Dondond Hontiveros (right) during the 2002 Asian Games in Busan. AP

By Musong R. Castillo

OF ALL THE QUESTIONS ASKED OF CHOT Reyes when he named the members of the Philippine Team on Saturday, one reverberated inside the venue.

And his answer rang even louder.

"Yes, we can beat China," Reyes boldly declared during the brief press conference held to unveil the country's newest national team.

"But how we do that remains the big question."

The firebrand San Miguel Beer coach selected five guards, the same number of forwards and two big men for the 12-man roster that will do battle in the Southeast Asian Basketball Association championship first before campaigning in the Fiba-Asia joust for an Olympic slot in July.

The road to the 2008 Summer Games in Beijing will be rough, but

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Out with saints in boxing

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

SPORTSMAN TONY ALDEGUER HAS A big problem and he must be told about it. Right now!

Mr. Aldeguer, pardon this, is too much of a gentleman.

Saturday night out there at Cebu Sports Complex, Aldeguer walked close to referee Sammy Viruet and told the sweaty visitor he won the fight for defending world super flyweight champion Fernando Montiel.

Of course, Aldeguer was very mad.

Just like everybody out there at the overfilled stands, Aldeguer could've spat at the cheating ref.

* * *

Viruet actually deserved a whole stinking can of slum garbage dumped over his dirty head. He had just completed one of the biggest robberies in a world championship.

He stole from the young Z Gorres a world crown which the sharp, vastly improved boxer honestly deserved.

Viruet slapped two point deductions—in the 10th and 12 rounds—from Gorres without a single warning.

The result was a dubious split decision for the badly beaten Montiel, who looked every inch the true loser.

* * *

Well, maybe Aldeguer, in black T-shirt and slacks with matching black rubber shoes, wanted to tear at Viruet.

You know, just like all the fans who witnessed the crime and who themselves felt greatly robbed.

Said Emy Martinez, a young housewife from Mandaluyong now living in Cebu: "How bad, how sad. I caught the replay of the rounds. Quinito Henson said, "I'm shocked, I'm stunned.'"

Reported Henson himself: "Montiel could not believe his luck. He was lucky to escape with his crown. Tony Aldeguer, who bankrolled the event, said: 'We put on a good show for the fans. We showed that a skillful fighter can also be exciting. I'm very disappointed but we'll move on. I'm proud of Gorres. I know someday he will be a world champion."

* * *

Well, that's Mr. Aldeguer for you.

The harshest he could say was, "I'm very disappointed."

Well, truth is Viruet could've perpetuated a crime equal to what that official, who was banned for cheating Flash Elorde in his fight against Sandy Sadler in San Francisco in the late 50s, had done.

The call here is for the banishment of referee Viruet.

In fact, Manny Pacquiao, who witnessed everything from ringside, could not help but shake his head, protest, and say the referee overstepped the bounds.

* * *

Naturally, Gorres was in tears, mumbling incoherently, as he walked past shocked fans, on the way to the dugout.

Gorres had completed a masterpiece in tactical boxing. He came up with one of the finest international displays of craft and grit by a Filipino fighter.

Now, they're saying Gorres lost because he could not hit strong enough.

There were taunts Gorres could not stop his foe because he would pinch instead of punch.

Maybe. But Pacquiao, a supreme knockout artist, was himself caught swooning as Gorres dominated most of the rounds before fading in the homestretch.

* * *

Reviewing the scores, this reporter had the outclassed Montiel winning only two— the 3rd and 7th—of the first nine rounds.

Then came the deduction in the 10th before the coup in the final round.

Anyway, as a consolation, the WBO announced it would retain Gorres as its No. 1 super flyweight contender.

Who knows? There could be a rematch within the year.

However, there's no assurance two of the three judges—Chuck Giampa and Rafael Caiz Sr.—would not be around if and when Gorres fights Montiel again.

Giampa and Caiz, who must've been scoring another bout, both scored if for Montiel.

Denny Nielson saw Gorres the clear winner, just like with most others in the huge crowd.

"I scored it as I saw it," Nielson told journalist Salven Lagumbay as the American judge headed out.

Nielson had the quiet, honest face of fulfilled priest. Maybe he should also be a candidate as saint of boxing, just like Tony Aldeguer.

Buenavista outthinks, outkicks the best of 'em

By Jasmine W. Payo

NO OTHER SCENARIO RACED THROUGH his mind.

Supremely confident to the end, national record holder Eduardo Buenavista ruled the Philippine Marathon for the Pasig River on his debut run.

The diminutive Buenavista ran a well-thought-out tactical race, keeping a steady pace before sprinting away from the lead pack in the last nine kilometers to win in two hours, 23 minutes and eight seconds.

"Going into the race, I knew I had a good chance of winning," Buenavista said in Filipino minutes after completing the arduous route that started at dawn at the grounds of Manila Cathedral in Intramuros and wound up at the Global City in Taguig.

"I controlled my pace and I let (runner-up Cresenciano) Sabal go ahead. When I pulled away in the end, he just couldn't catch up."

Sabal, last year's champion, admitted to his own folly after finishing four minutes behind Buenavista in 2:27:54.

"My pacing was too fast," said Sabal. "I was expecting the Kenyan runner (Robert Wangbugu) to do well and I focused on him. When he gave out in the last 16 km, my body also gave out. It felt heavy in the last 9 km."

Rolando Piamonte of the Philippine Army came in third in 2:34:58.

Wangbugu, one of five foreign runners who flew in for the only local race listed in the world marathon calendar, settled for fourth place in 2:36:27.

Just like Buenavista, overconfidence was not a problem for defending champion Jho-An Banayag who also blew the women's field with a time of 3:00:14.

"I think I am at my peak," said the 25-year-old Banayag. "I've been training with the male runners in the national team. It's all hard work."

Buenavista bagged the P100,00 prize, while Banayag pocketed P75,000.

Banayag made her move at the 27-km mark in Mandaluyong City, passing Flordeliza Cachero-Carreon and then running all by her lonesome the rest of the way.

Cachero-Carreon settled for second in 3:04:59, followed by Ailene Tolentino in 3:13:46.

Running at an even pace early on proved to be a brilliant tactic for the 4-foot-11 Buenavista as he shook off Sabal for good when he charged it up in the final stretch along C5 Road.

For Buenavista, the victory validated his decision to concentrate on road races after one painful episode in the oval events.

The 28-year-old Buenavista set the national marathon record of 2:18:44 in Oita, Japan, in 2004, yet he reaped more international success in the 10,000 meters and 5,000m events.

But in 2005, Buenavista was infamously stripped of the Southeast Asian Games gold medal after judges ruled he obstructed a Thai opponent in the final dash of the 5,000m race held at the Rizal Memorial Track Stadium in Manila.

"I want to compete in the SEA Games again, but my focus will be on the marathon event," said Buenavista, who hails from South Cotabato.

In other races, national steeplechase champion Rene Herrera ruled the men's 10K in 31:53, followed by Julius Sermona (32:14) and Reynaldo Pascua (32:51).

Mercedita Manipol topped the distaff side in 37:27, with Marecil Maquilan (39:18) and Liza Yambao (40:12) finishing in that order.

Far Eastern University's Nelbert Ducusin triumphed in the men's 5K in 16:49, a mere nine seconds in front of Ben Alejandrino (16:58) and Marjohn Salanamon (17:08).

Nheann Barcena clocked 9:31 to outclass seasoned women's 5K runners Emma Magango (20:07) and Bernadette Mag-aso (21:31).

EDUARDO Buenavista heads for the finish line unchallenged. RODEL ROTONI

Barcarse, Dysangco show class in Tarlac elims

DYSANGCO

TARLAC CITY—Abraham Barcarse returned to the scene of his triumph last year by easily ruling the 4th leg of the National Milo marathon elimination race yesterday.

Barcarse, 22, set the pace right after Mayor Aro Mendoza fired the starting gun and hit the tape in 1:08:07, surpassing his winning time of 1:10 last year.

The farmer's son from Aparri, Cagayan, pocketed the top prize of P10,000 and advanced to the grand finals, set in November in Manila, along with runner-up Jujet de Asis (1:10:53) and third placer Bowen Montecillo (1:12:56).

Analiza Dysangco shared honors with Barcarse by topping the distaff side in 1:32:45.

Anna Liza Vargas came in second in 1:42:08 and Ederlita Sanchez took third in 1:45:46.

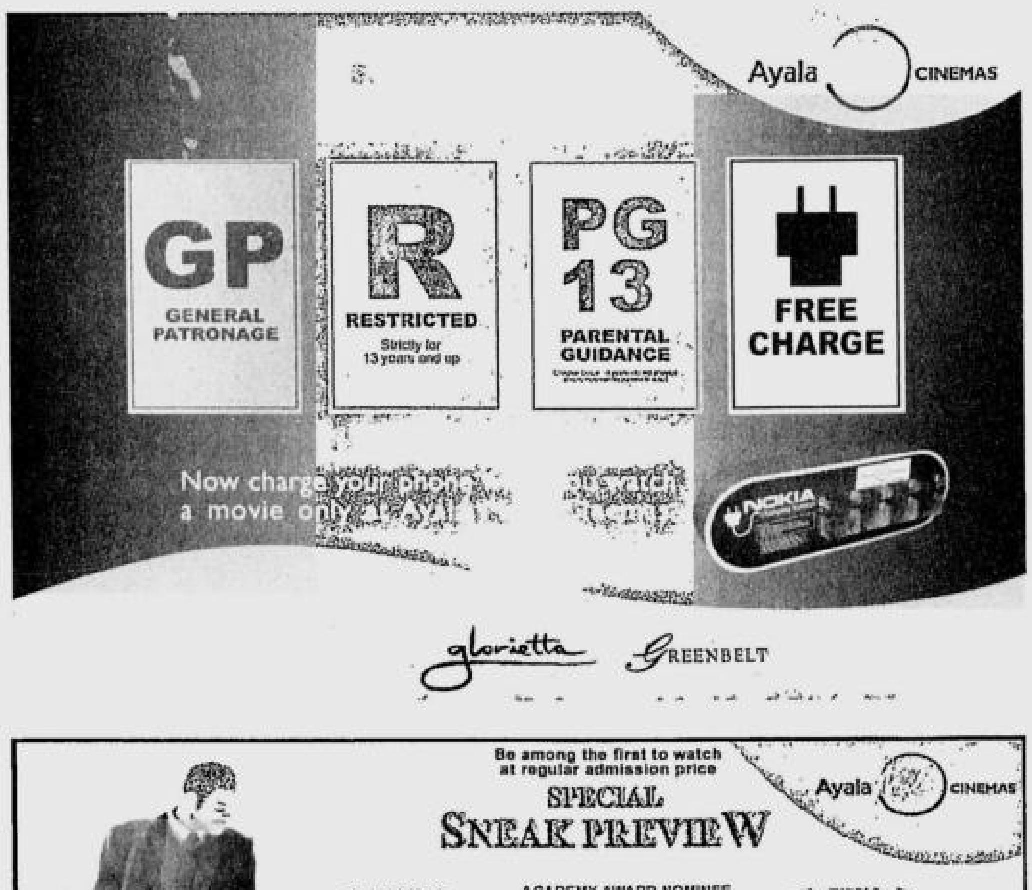
Barcarse, an Education senior at Far Eastern University, failed to compete in last year's grand finals due to a knee injury.

"*Paghahandaan ko ito dahil mabigat ang labanan dito, lahat ng magagaling ay kasali* (I will prepare hard for the finals because all the country's best are joining)," said Barcarse.

De Asis, a protégé of 1992 Milo Marathon champion Rey Antoque, and Montecillo challenged Barcarse in the early going but faded as the race wore on.

The top three finishers in the races received their prizes from Milo Events executive Pat Goc-Ong.

About 10,000 runners vied for honors in the event organized by Tarlac City sports chief Arnold Rodriguez and supervised by Milo national race director Rudy Biscocho.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Chot: We can beat China

From page A29

Reyes said the Philippines, in a manner of speaking, will ride fast and furious cars instead of the comfortably big limousines on the way there.

"I honestly think that we have the best guards in Asia," Reyes said. "China has the big players. But this (having the best guards) is our advantage and we intend to use that to the hilt.

"But make no mistake about it, this will not be automatic," he added.

The team Reyes and his assistants built can "break people (defenses) down," and can "run and shoot the three-pointer" if the need arises.

REYES: The big question is how?

Team composition defended

Reyes defended the team's 5-5-2 composition, saying that only two of its members—Talk 'N Text guard Jimmy Alapag and center Asi Taulava—cannot play multiple positions.

The inclusion of Mick Pennisi also raised eyebrows, but Reyes and the coaching staff put into consideration the knack of the 6-foot-9 Filipino-Italian of hitting the three-point shot on a consistent basis and of playing tough defense.

Reyes took great pains explaining how the likes of Kerby Raymundo, Rudy Hatfield, Danny Seigle, Ranidel de Ocampo and Tony dela Cruz could play big and small positions with ease, and how Ren-Ren Ritualo and Dondon Hontiveros could slide from their normal off-guard spots to the point at any time.

Jay-Jay Helterbrand and Mark Caguioa could go down as the team's focal points and Reyes is expected to make Barangay Ginebra's "fast and furious" tandem his primary offensive charges.

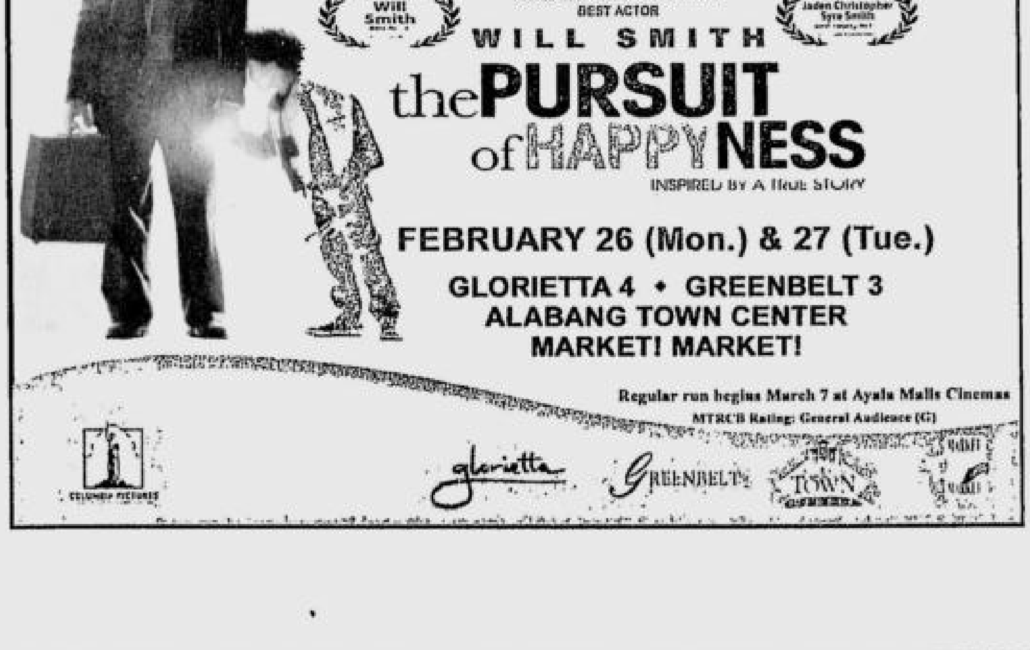
Three alternates—big men Rommel Adducul, Rafi Reavis and Enrico Villanueva—will join the team's preparations.

"We have workhorses in this team and that's important," Reyes said. "Plus, this is the first time that we have players here who really want to be here."

Making the Olympics for the first time since the 1972 Munich Games could prove to be a huge task, even for a person who has proven to have accomplished a lot like Reyes.

But Reyes has taken the view from the optimist's side of the world. agreeing to the old adage that every journey begins with a single step.

And, coupled with the prayers of an entire nation, Reyes believes that he has at his disposal what it would take to put the Philippines back in the grand stage of the sport.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Wire-to-wire victory for Ger Francis

GER FRANCIS, A POCKET-SIZED COLT HANDLED by apprentice rider Jemo Tinte, came up with a bristling pace yesterday to rule the Chairman's Cup in wire-to-wire style over another longshot, Storm Hall, over a hard track at Santa Ana Park in Makati City.

The speedball son of Yaz out of Heavenly got the jump on the field and stayed in there while turning back the favorites to clock an impressive 1-minute and 34.6 seconds over 1,500 meters.

Ger Francis posted quarter times of 18-24'-23'-28' for the P900,000 prize as he finished two lengths ahead of Storm Hall, the early trailer who rallied hard under Dominador Borbe for P337,500.

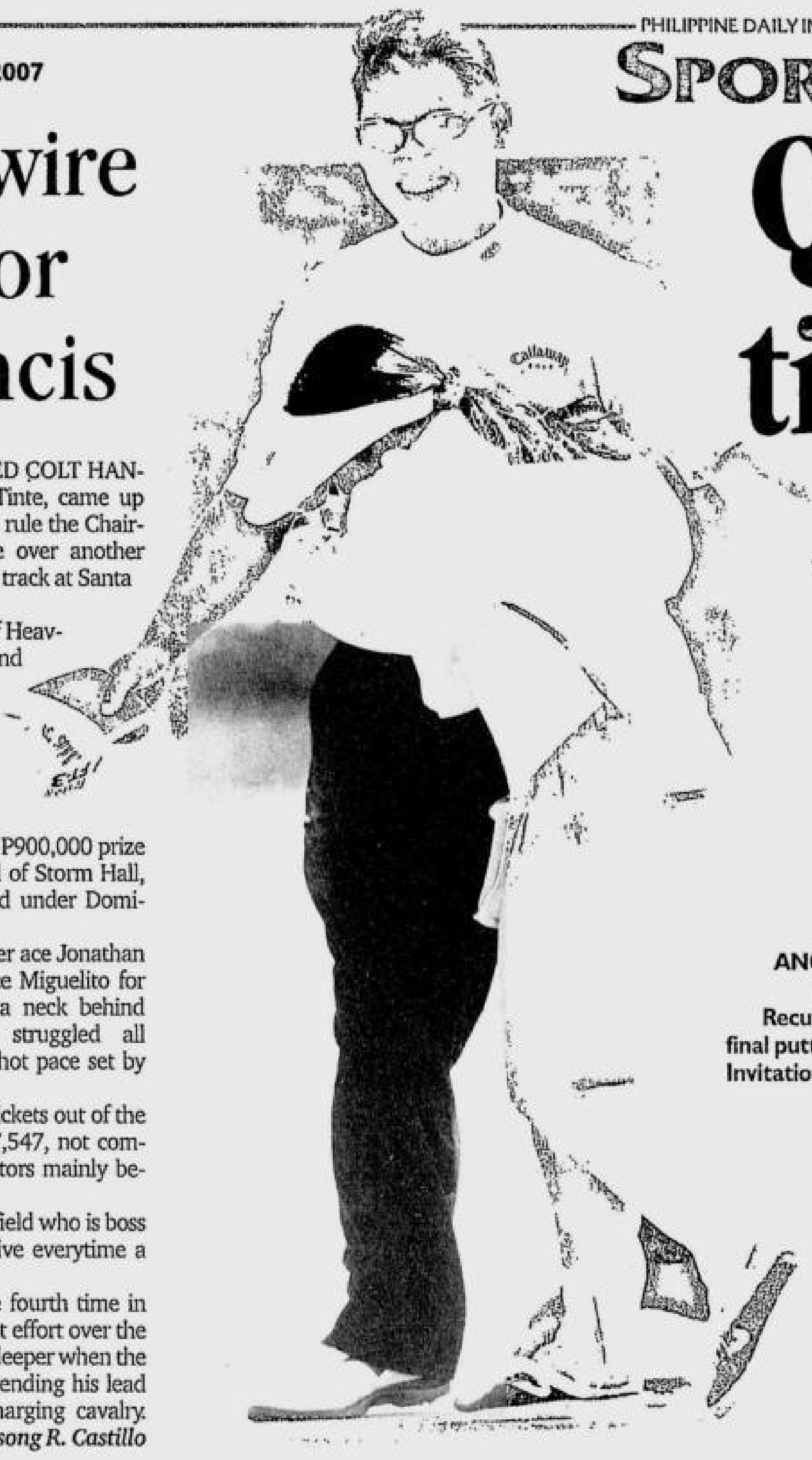
Second pick Ididitmyway, under ace Jonathan B. Hernandez, nipped first choice Miguelito for third spot and P187,500, just a neck behind Storm Hall. Miguelito, who struggled all throughout the race due to the hot pace set by Ger Francis, settled for P75,000.

Ger Francis sold only 21,157 tickets out of the total daily double handle of 937,547, not commanding much respect from bettors mainly because of his past performances.

But the black colt showed the field who is boss early, as he had something to give everytime a fancied bet mounted a pursuit.

Ger Francis, who won for the fourth time in seven career starts but whose best effort over the distance was just 1:38, then dug deeper when the field rounded the final bend, extending his lead to three lengths over a hard-charging cavalry.

Musong R. Castillo



ANGELO Que gets a hug from his caddie Sally Recuenco after sinking his final putt at the Country Club Invitational. ROMY HOMILLADA

Que nails Razon title, wins P1.3M

By Musong R. Castillo

STA. ROSA, LAGUNA—IT WAS NOT EXactly the perfect final round Angelo Que wanted but he will take it just the same.

Que almost put a brilliant effort to waste, surviving a four-putt double-bogey 6 on the 16th hole before signing for a one-under-par 69 and seizing a one-shot victory in the P4.4 million Don Pocholo Razon Memorial over a floundering Elmer Salvador yesterday.

The 29-year-old one-time Asian Tour champion got all the help he needed from Salvador in winning the P1.3 million top purse.

The two-day leader muffed what looked like a routine six-foot putt for par on the final hole that could have forged a sudden-death playoff.

Salvador, who zoomed to the lead after the second round, blew a four-stroke lead at the start of the day with a disastrous 8 on the par-5 second hole on the way to a 74. Second place was worth P671,000—still the biggest payday of his career.

It was the first time in four days that Salvador failed to crack 70. He had turned in scores of 67, 68 and 69 and threatened to post the most lopsided win in the young history of this tournament, the richest in the country outside the Philippine Open.

Que, a two-time national amateur champion, finished with a total of 277, three-under-par at the windswept The Country Club layout here, and gave himself a perfect wedding present.

The long-hitting member of the RP Team that finished third in the World Amateurs at Southwoods in 1999 ties the knot with long-time sweetheart Tracy Locsin in June.

"It's okay even if (I) four-putt a hole, as long as I win," said Que with a smile. "This (followup) victory took a long time in coming. But hard work got me through it."

Que won the inaugural Carlsberg Masters Vietnam in December 2004, although he has not had much success since then.

The 32-year-old Salvador, meanwhile, sputtered for the second straight year. "I guess this (tournament) is just not for me," he said.

First-round leader Gerald Rosales, also the RP Open runner-up to Frankie Miñoza earlier this month, submitted a 71 for 280 and third spot, two strokes ahead of burly Robert Pactolerin and 2004 winner Jherome Delariarte, who also fired 71s.

Pactolerin and Delariarte each won P272,250.

Final standings: 277—A. Que 69-72-67-69 (34-35); 278—E. Salvador 67-68-69-74 (36-38); 280—G. Rosales 66-70-73-71 (34-37); 282—R. Pactolerin 69-70-72-71 (36-35); J. Delariarte 68-70-73-71 (36-35); 283—A. Murakami 70-72-67-74 (36-38); 285—F. Miñoza 73-72-71-71 (37-34); D. Ardina (Am) 74-67-72-72 (35-37); 286—M. Pucay 71-73-72-70 (36-34); 287—E. Sanchez 72-76-69-70 (37-33); T. Lascuña 71-72-73-71 (35-36); 288—B. Magada 71-75-73-69 (35-34); C. Rodriguez (Am) 71-72-74-71 (33-38); 289—R. Sinfuego 72-75-74-68 (35-33); R. Sasuil 72-77-71-69 (33-36); 290—A. Balan 77-69-73-71 (34-37); 291—M. Dizon 74-73-72-72 (37-35), C. Casas 73-72-72-74 (39-35); 293—M. Dumandan 73-73-73-74 (36-38); 294—P. Miñoza 72-74-72-76 (39-37); C. La'O 70-70-76-78 (38-40); 296—L. Dacudao 74-73-77-72 (39-33); D. Bicierra (Am) 75-74-70-77 (39-38); 298—D. Zarate 73-74-73-78 (37-41); 300—A. Tanpinco (Am) 76-73-75-76 (35-41); M. Piccio (Am) 70-76-74-80 (42-38).

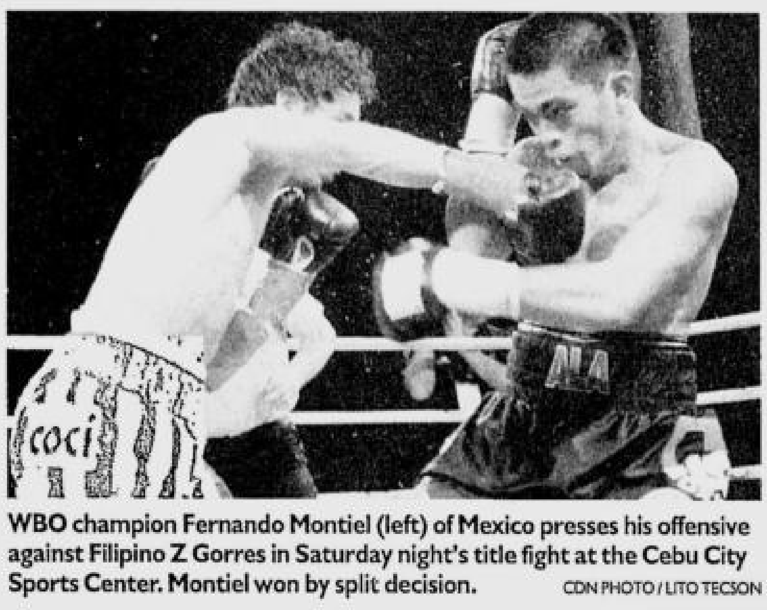
Jaca-Larios tiff in Vegas May 5 card

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

NEWLY CROWNED WBO ASIA-Pacific super-featherweight champion Jimrex "The Executioner" Jaca will face former WBC superbantam champion Oscar "Chololo" Larios on May 5 in the undercard the Oscar De la Hoya-Floyd Mayweather battle at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

Jaca, in an interview right after his title-winning effort against Indonesia's Simson Butar-Butar, said that Golden Boy Promotions vice-president Eric Gomez had told him about the fight with Larios, and that the GBP executive has already started processing his travel papers to the United States.

Jaca joins the undefeated Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista as the first names mentioned to see action on the big May 5 card which is considered as the biggest boxing event in the history of the sport.



WBO champion Fernando Montiel (left) of Mexico presses his offensive against Filipino Z Gorres in Saturday night's title fight at the Cebu City Sports Center. Montiel won by split decision. CDN PHOTO / LITO TECSON

International matchmaker Sampson Lewkowicz, in an interview, revealed that Oscar De la Hoya has made it clear that since he is the main attraction of the May 5 fight, he reserves the right to choose who will be in the undercard, and that Bautista was the first name that the Golden Boy mentioned.

Jaca demolished Butar-Butar via a seventh-round knockout victory Saturday night, avenging the defeat of his compatriot Czar Amonsot who was stopped by the Indonesian in the first round last year.

The boxing event that also featured a controversial loss by Z Gorres and a stunning win by Bautista, looked more like the Sinulog event in terms of the SRO crowd at the Cebu City Sports Complex.

OTHER RESULTS: In the night's first bout, Weng Haya prevailed via unanimous decision over Romnick Rapista ... In the third bout, ALA Boy Joseph Omanz dominated Markyll Taroja, scored a knockdown in the first, before prevailing on a unanimous decision over four rounds .. Bert Batawang knocked down Indonesia's Sofyan Efendi twice in the fourth round to score an impressive TKO win at the 2:12 mark .. Alex John Banal unleashed a big left to Thailand's Komrith Evereadygym to win by KO in the first round ... Milan Milendo prevailed on a sixth-round technical decision over Alex Aroy in the night's walkout bout.

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SPORTSWATCH

Piata golf at S. Elena today

TICKETS TO CHOICE OVERSEAS DESTINATIONS are at stake in the Piata Cup co-presented by the Philippine IATA Travel Agents Association and Galileo Travelport today at the Sta. Elena Golf Club in Cabuyao, Laguna. Piata Cup chair Frank Khouri and tournament director Vicky Gonzales said that vacations in various spots around the world are among the prizes to be raffled off in the 18-hole tournament. Hole-in-one prizes from Pioneer Insurance, Suzuki and Northwest Airlines are at stake. About 180 players are seeing action in the event set at the three nines of the multi-awarded club. Shotgun teeoff starts at 8 a.m.

Harbour five Forum guest

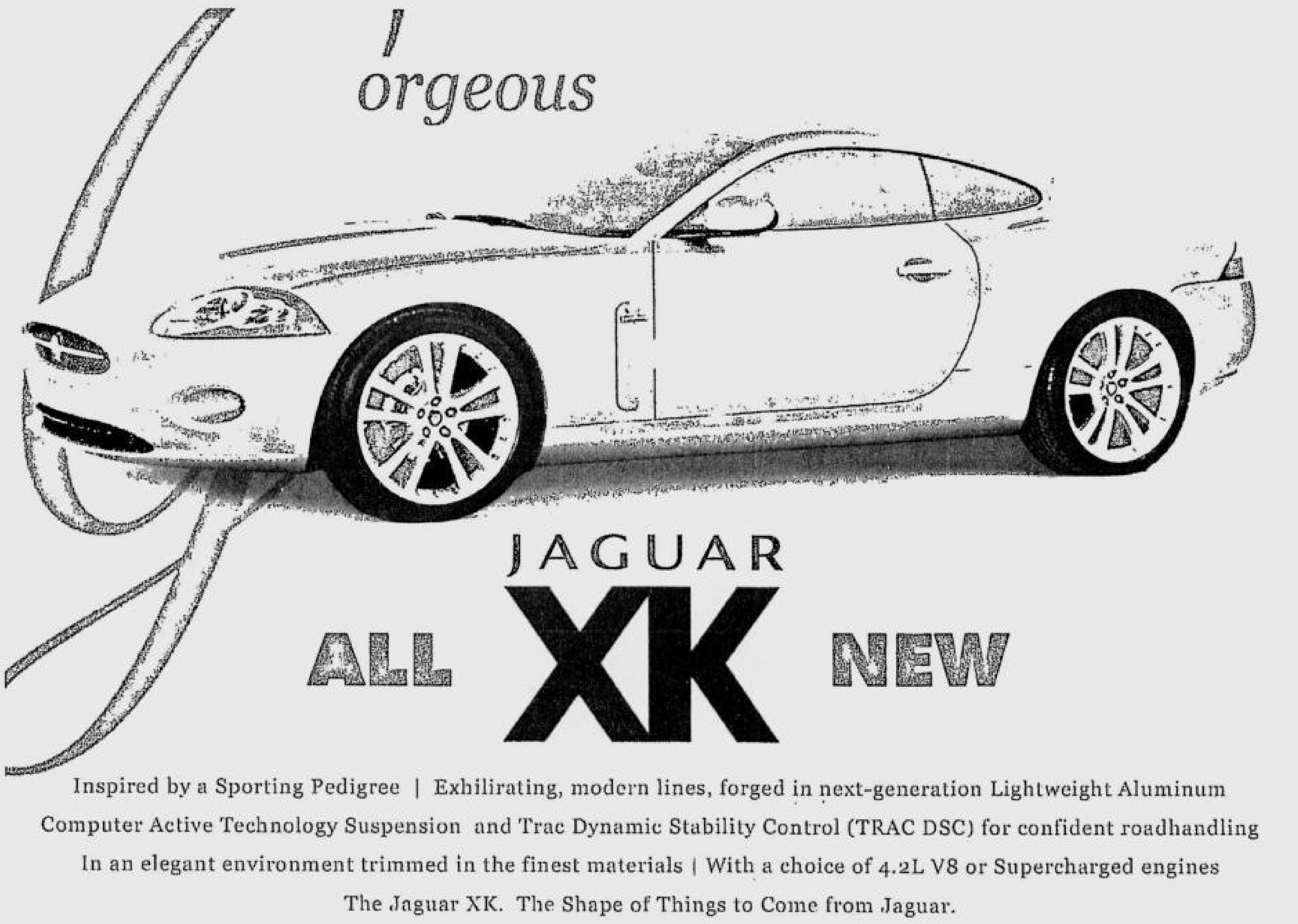
NEWLY CROWNED PHILIPPINE BASKETBALL League (PBL) Silver Cup champion Harbour Centre and organizers of the coming Philippine Olympic Festival are the special guests appearing in the weekly PSA Forum at the main function room of the Pantalan Restaurant in Manila. Representing Harbour Centre are team owner Mikee Romero, coach George Gallent and team manager Eric Arejola while speaking for the Philippine Olympic Festival are POC chair Robert Aventajado and Ilocos Sur Gov. Chavit Singson.

PCAP derby under way

SOME 70 MATCHES ARE ON THE FIGHT ROSter in the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) 5-cock derby which gets going today at the Makati Coliseum. Topnotch warbirds from some of the country's finest cockfighters will be fielded in the derby sponsored by B-Meg Derby Ace and Gran Matador. Three events of the 13-leg PCAP series have been staged with veteran campaigner Rainier Kau topping the third leg last Feb. 19.

'Largahan' 5-cocker is on

NINETY-FIVE MATCHES ARE ON TAP STARTING at 2 p.m. today in the Largahan 5-Cock Derby at Roligon Mega Cockpit. Twenty more participants entered the championship round of the derby sponsored by Lakpue Drug Inc. and Thunderbird Enertone after registering two wins in last Saturday's qualifying round, bringing to 44 the number of 2 pointers so far. Among the qualifiers are Ben Rodriguez and Esting Teopaco of Tarlac, Pepe Burgos of Batangas, Mark Dillon, Mon Negapatan,Jojo Layco, Terry Santos, Allen Reyes, Benson Patricio, Nelson Uba and Joel delos Reyes.



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Mavs stretch home win run

THE MAVERICKS' Devin Harris (above), driving to the basket, charges into Denver big man Nene. AFP

DALLAS—DIRK NOWITZKI HAD 31 points, 11 rebounds and 8 assists as the Dallas Mavericks stretched their club-record home winning streak to 19 games with a 115-95 victory over the Denver Nuggets on Saturday.

Nowitzki fell two assists short of his first career triple-double and 28th in the history of the Mavericks, who won their 11th in a row overall.

Josh Howard, playing on a sore right ankle, added 27 points for the Mavericks. Jerry Stackhouse scored 16 for Dallas, which has won 46 of 51 after opening the season at 0-4.

Carmelo Anthony scored 34 points and Allen Iverson had 26 for the Nuggets, who lost their fourth in a row. Marcus Camby added 10 points and 17 rebounds for Denver.

In San Antonio, Tony Parker scored 21 points and Robert Horry added 17 to lead the Spurs to their fifth straight win, a comfortable 102-71 rout of the Seattle SuperSonics.

Matt Bonner had 13 points, Manu Ginobili scored 11 and Tim Duncan added six points and 15 rebounds for the Spurs.

Ray Allen scored 12 points to lead the Sonics, and Rashard Lewis and Damien Wilkins had 10 each. Seattle had a season-low scoring total and lost for the sixth time in the last 10 games.

In Salt Lake City, Derek Fisher scored 17 of his 21 points in the second half and Carlos Boozer had 16 points and 10 rebounds for Utah, which crushed Boston, 105-87.

Deron Williams finished with 10 assists and helped lead Utah's rally in the third quarter after Boston narrowed a 15-point margin down to one but never quite caught the Jazz, who were without starters Mehmet Okur (back) and Andrei Kirilenko (knee).

Paul Pierce had 19 points to lead the Celtics, who have lost 22 of 23.

Bucks 109, 76ers 90

At Milwaukee, Michael Redd and Mo Williams scored 26 points each and Milwaukee beat Philadelphia to snap a seven-game losing streak.

Redd started strong and Williams, who finished 10-of-13 from the field including 5-of-7 from 3-point range, helped finish off Philadelphia, which has now lost five of six.

Andre Iguodala, averaging 17.4 points, scored 18 of his 22 points in the first half and went 9-of-18 from the field for the 76ers. Samuel Dalembert added 15 points, Willie Green scored 11 and Andre Miller had 10 points and 11 assists.

Milwaukee won for just the second time in 13 games and is 4-22 since Jan. 1. The Bucks erased a 12-point first half deficit and began to steadily pull away in the third. The Bucks started the quarter on a 22-3 run and led by as many as 30 in trash time.

Raptors 93, Bobcats 76

At Charlotte, North Carolina, Chris Bosh scored all 24 of his points in the second half and added 11 rebounds to help Toronto snap Charlotte's team-record four-game winning streak.

Bosh, who missed his first five shots and didn't score until midway through the third quarter, dominated the inside after Charlotte lost leading rebounder Emeka Okafor to a strained left calf in the third quarter. Bobcats leading scorer Gerald Wallace also left in the third quarter with a strained groin, and Charlotte quickly wilted.

Jose Calderon added 16 points and TJ Ford scored 15 for the Raptors, who limited the Bobcats to 32 percent shooting to win for the 12th time in 15 games.

Matt Carroll and Adam Morrison scored 13 points apiece for Charlotte, and Wallace had 12 before leaving.

In Los Angeles, Elton Brand had 31 points and 12 rebounds and tied a career high with eight blocked shots to help the CLippers snap a four-game skid with a 103-90 victory over the Golden State Warriors.

Corey Maggette scored eight of his 18 points in the final 5:18 in his sixth start of the season for the Clippers. Tim Thomas had 17 points and 10 rebounds before leaving the game because of back spasms in the fourth quarter. AP

Stacy bags Fields golf title, J-Ro fumbles

KAPOLEI, HAWAII—STACY PRAMMANASUDH shot a 4-under 68 on Saturday to hold off Jee Young Lee by a stroke and complete a wire-to-wire victory in the Fields Open.

The 27-year-old Prammanasudh had five birdies and sealed her second LPGA Tour title by two-putting for par from 20 feet on No. 18 to finish at 14-under 202.

Lee closed with a bogey-free 68.

Jennifer Rosales fumbled with a 74 and finished at 218, 16 shots off the lead.

Prammanasudh, (pronounced PRAH-mahnasood), was sharp and steady all day, never allowing anyone to catch her. She also won the Franklin American Mortgage Championship in 2005, the last tournament she led heading into the final round before this week.

"The first kind of came up on me by surprise. I wasn't expecting to win so early," she said. "Then you know you put in a lot of hard work to try to get that second one."

After holing her final putt, a two-footer for par, she kissed her husband, who also is her caddie.

Rookie Angela Park (71), making her second LPGA Tour start as a pro, Japanese star Ai Miyazato (66) and 18-year-old Morgan Pressel (69) tied for third at 11 under.

Park and Pressel are both 18 and were vying to supplant Paula Creamer as the youngest winner of a full LPGA Tour event.

With a three-hour rain delay Friday, 70 players had to return to the course Saturday morning to complete the second round.

Prammanasudh took sole possession of the lead early, sinking short birdie putts on the first two holes to take a two-shot lead. She missed the green and bogeyed the par-4 third, but hit an aggressive second shot over the water on the par-5 fifth that set up a two-putt birdie from 30 feet to get back to 12 under.

Park and Lee also birdied the hole to stay a stroke behind Prammanasudh.

"There were a lot of chances for me to make more birdies but I just couldn't do it," said Lee, who won the 2005 CJ Nine Bridges Classic in South Korea to become the 14th non-LPGA member to win an LPGA event. AP

Lim keeps poise in debut as Lions' coach

By Jasmine W. Payo

INTERIM SAN BEDA COACH FRANKIE Lim could not ask for a bigger debut.

With his trademark low-key demeanor, Lim started his duty as coach by helping the handicapped NCAA champions keep pace with UAAP titlist University of Santo Tomas in the "Unity in Sports" event yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

"I'm excited," said Lim before the showdown between the two champion squads in the local college scene.

He just didn't show too much of it.

Trailing by only a point at halftime, 35-34, the Lions were missing several key players in the match that was still going on at press time, including 6-foot-8 Nigerian Sam Ekwe, Yousif Aljamal and Pong Escobal due to various injuries.

"I'm giving them time to recover, they are expected to come back in the latter part of March," said Lim.

The Tigers fielded in a complete roster led by UAAP Finals Most Valuable Player Jojo Duncil and rookie sensation Jervy Cruz.

The Lions, who recently parted ways with mentor Koy Banal, are expected to officially announce their new coach this week.

Before the main game, Jordan Herrera shot a game-high 26 points to lead the Red Team to a 72-63 victory over the White Team in the celebrity match.

Playing coach Philip Salvador called the shots for the Red Team, who signed up former pros Philip Cezar and Bong Hawkins as reinforcements.

Still flashing his sweet-shooting form, Allan Caidic fueled the White Team with 22 points. Tirso Cruz III served as playing coach for the White squad.

Taekwondo, sepak takraw and ballroom dancing exhibitions were also featured in the sports event that commemorated the 21st anniversary of the Edsa People Power Revolution.

HENRIK Stenson hugs caddie Fanny Sunneson after advancing. AP

Ogilvy, Stenson gain match play final

MARANA, ARIZONA—GEOFF OGILVY WON two more matches Saturday to make it 11 in a row at the Accenture Match Play Championship and advanced to the 36-hole championship match against Henrik Stenson of Sweden.

In the frosty morning and sunny afternoon, the 29-year-old Australian stayed hot with his putter in dispatching Paul Casey 5 and 4 in the quarterfinals, then Chad Campbell in the semifinals with one clutch putt after another in a 3 and 2 victory.

And so ended yet another streak: For the first time in the nine-year history of the event, an American will not play for the title.

Stenson, so chilled in the morning that he jogged around the practice range to loosen his limbs, turned in the most spectacular shot of a busy day at The Gallery.

He was all square in his quarterfinal match against Nick O'Hern until hitting his tee shot at the base of cactus. After taking a penalty drop onto the firm sand in the desert, he hit wedge to 2 feet to escape with par and a 1-up victory.

"Things turned out slightly different in my favor," Stenson said.

O'Hern was short of the green, chipped to 4 feet and missed the par putt. It was about the same distance from which Tiger Woods missed Friday when he lost to O'Hern.

With enough time to eat lunch, Stenson made short work of Trevor Immelman. He made five birdies on the front nine to built a 3-up lead and never gave the South African a chance to get back into the match, winning 3 and 2.

"I'm knackered after playing two rounds," Stenson said, looking ahead to his 36-hole final with $1.35 million to the winner.

Ogilvy can't complain of being worn out, certainly not compared to last year.

He needed extra holes in four straight matches a year ago at La Costa, but what a turnaround in the high desert north of Tucson. After five matches, Ogilvy has yet to play the 18th hole. He has played only 79 holes this week, compared with 95 at this point a year ago. AP

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ONE-MAKE RACE Multititled dirtbike rider Bebet dela Cruz leads the pack in yesterday's 2007 Honda Super Moto One-Make Race at The Fort in Global City, Taguig. De la Cruz topped both the XRM Expert Modified and the XRM Expert Stock races to bag a total cash prize of P20,000 in the event organized by Speedgear Sports Inc., headed by Joey Almeda The kickoff races of the Honda series drew 298 riders.

Languido rules Adidas footrace

DAVAO CITY—JUNIEL LANGUIDO OF Bukidnon outsprinted Jonel Boncit of Tagum City down the wire to rule the Adidas King of the Road race that ended at the car park of the Gaisano Mall here yesterday.

Estela Mamac-Diaz of Davao City, meanwhile, led from start to finish to crown herself Queen of the annual foot race, which opened its 2007 season in Baguio City two Sundays ago.

Languido and Boncit took turns in pacing the 10K race but the former grabbed the lead for good only at the finish line.

The 24-year-old Languido pocketed the top purse of P10,000 cash, P10,000 worth of gift certificates and the men's trophy.

Languido finished the race in 31 minutes and five seconds. Boncil crossed the end line just a split second behind.

The 19-year-old Boncil, however, topped the 13-19 age group category and settled for the prize of P1,000 worth Adidas gift certificate and a medal.

Diaz, on the other hand, clocked 39 minutes and 52 seconds to also win P10,000 cash, P10,000 gift certificate and an elegant cup trophy.

The 35-year-old Diaz also ruled the national Milo Marathon in 2004.

According to Adidas Philippines Inc sports marketing manager Goody Custodio, Languido and Diaz will be sent to Manila on the June 17 to represent the region in the King of the Road 21K season finale.

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Sumitomo eyes $380-M nickel facility in RP

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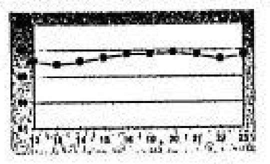

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Joint venture project with Zamora group seen

By Christine A. Gaylican

JAPAN'S SUMITOMO METAL MINING CO. LTD. IS PLANning to build a $380-million nickel processing facility in Surigao, officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said.

Sumitomo, one of the world's biggest nickel producers, is actually scouting for a suitable site for a new refinery and has shortlisted the Philippines, Indonesia and New Caledonia.

Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes said he was optimistic that Sumitomo would choose the Philippines considering that the Japanese company has been a longtime partner of the Zamora group.

"Sumitomo is actually buying raw nickel from companies based in Surigao, (specifically) the Hinatuan Mining and the Cadianao Mining facilities owned by the Zamora group," said

SUMITOMO/ B2

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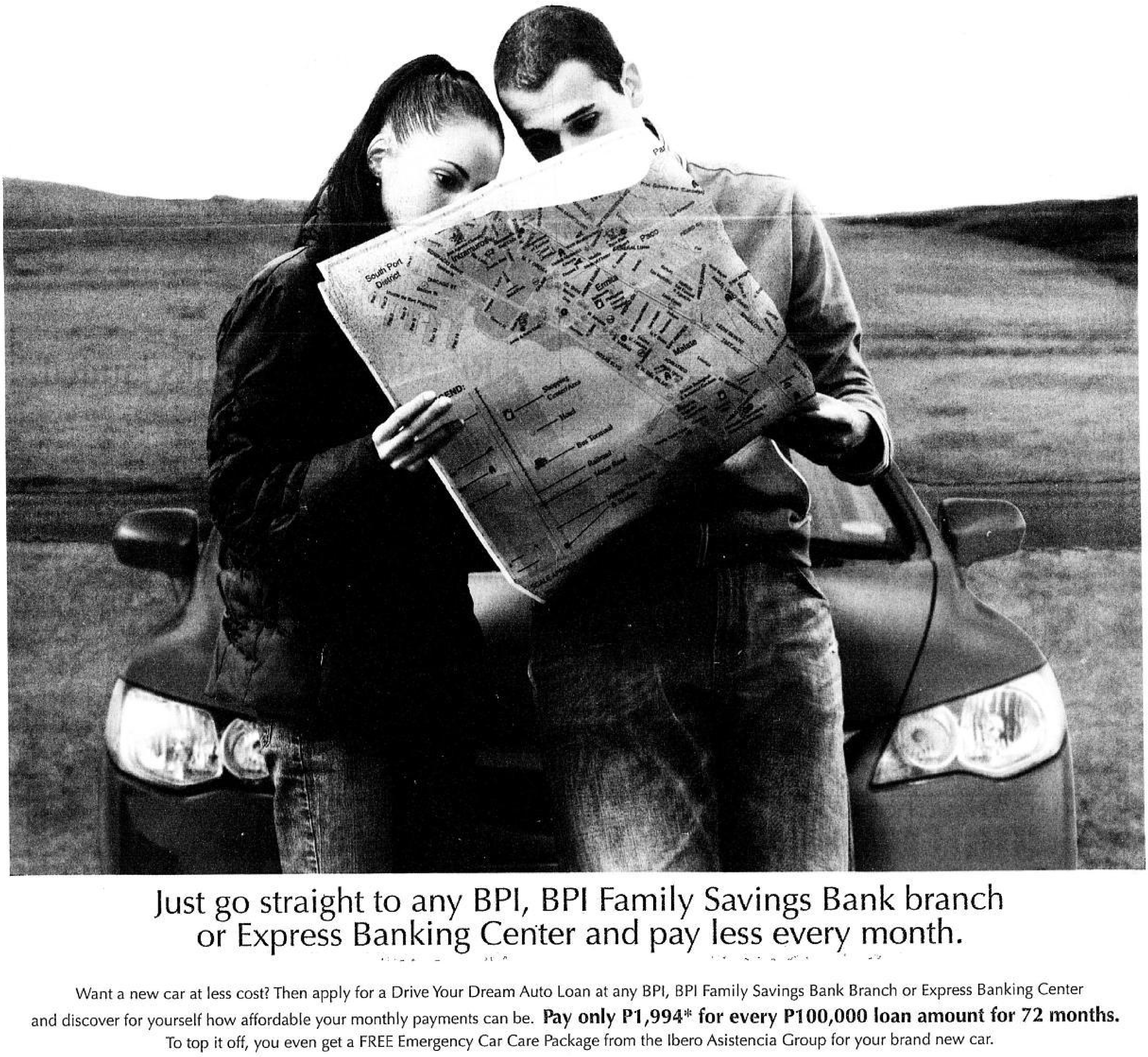

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WTO exec backs measure to lower drug prices

By Ronnel W. Domingo

Move to answer social needs

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION Director general Pascal Lamy expressed support for legislative moves to lower the cost of medicines, saying this was an expression of the country's ability to change rules to answer social needs.

Sen. Manuel Roxas II, chair of the Senate committees on economic affairs and on trade and commerce, said this was Lamy's remark during their one-on-one meeting last Friday in the latter's suite at The Peninsula Manila.

Roxas is author of Senate Bill No. 2263, which seeks to provide affordable medicines through changes in the Intellectual Property Code.

"Enabling countries to import lower-priced quality medicines from neighbors is a positive example of how governments can optimize globalization to benefit the poor," Roxas said.

"I informed the head of the WTO that this legislation is in accordance with the Doha round of negotiations and the TRIPS (the WTO's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) and conforms to existing practices followed by other countries," he added.

The Senate had unanimously approved SB 2263 before the end of the regular session earlier this month while its counterpart, House Bill No. 6035, was approved on second reading in a controversial session where members of the House ordered lobbyists from the pharmaceutical industry to leave the gallery.

Roxas said he and Lamy also discussed economic integration among members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations as well as the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement, which is awaiting Senate action.

Lamy said he was impressed with the progress of Asean's efforts toward integration to enhance regional development and competitiveness, according to Roxas.

A number of countries have increased activities related to bilateral and regional free trade agreements with the impasse at the WTO on the Doha Development Round, which collapsed in July 2006.

Some economists have criticized efforts to establish bilateral and regional FTAs, saying these increased transaction costs with the multitude of differing rules that each pact presented.

In an interview with the INQUIRER last Friday, Lamy said regional arrangements such as that of Asean were more synergistic with the multilateral or global trading system that the WTO stood for.

Sumitomo eyes $380-M …

From page B1

Mines and Geosciences Bureau director Horace Ramos.

Sumitomo also operates a nickel facility in Palawan, the Coral Bay Nickel project in Rio Tuba at the southernmost tip of the island, that is also on an expansion mode to increase its annual output to 20,000 metric tons a year.

Ramos said that the Japanese firm has been business partners of the Zamoras and it was likely that it would go into another joint venture with the Filipino group.

In the Coral Bay nickel project, Sumitomo owns a 54-percent stake, while Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corp. of Manuel Zamora Jr. has 10 percent and Mitsui & Co. Ltd. and Sojitz Corp. holding 18 percent each.

At the same time, Reyes said that Sumitomo could be swayed into locating in the Philippines as the DENR plans to require companies engaged in nickel mining production to put up a processing facility here.

"We are considering the possibility that mining firms may not be allowed to export raw nickel ore to sustain (operations of existing) nickel facilities and encourage more long-term investments in the country," he added.

The DENR said that another nickel project with great potential is that of Benguet Corp. in Sta. Cruz, Zambales. It was formerly explored by Falconbridge of Canada and has 11.03 million metric tons (MT) of proven/probable ore reserves at 1.68 percent nickel and 0.047 percent cobalt.

"Unlike other nickel projects which are laterite (soil-mixed), the Zambales prospect has sulfide, which is mostly (high-grade) mineral," said Mines Bureau assistant director Edwin G. Domingo.

The Zambales nickel project is also believed to be more promising compared to other projects as it has approximately 10 pounds more nickel per ton of ore than that on Nonoc Island in Surigao, data from the Mines Bureau indicated.

Feeling the good news

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

THE PRESIDENT WAS RECENTLY FAULTED for saying that the economy is actually getting better, only people don't know it or feel it—or something to that effect. But to her critics, that is exactly the point. The economy is the people, their lives and livelihoods. If the common people themselves do not feel they are part of the supposed improvement in the economy, then we must be missing the entire point of it all.

Why, indeed, don't people generally feel that the economy is improving?

'Feel na feel'

There is a bit of a contrast here with the economic improvement we had in the mid-1990s, under the watch of then President Ramos. Economic growth was likewise picking up then, but unlike now, there was a generally upbeat mood felt even in the countryside. These days, this view continues to be reinforced when random people I encounter tell me how during Ramos' watch, the economic improvement was "feel na feel." The latest such affirmation came from a Los Baños friend Ben Revilla, who asserts that he clearly felt the Ramos economic improvement in the way his poultry contract growing business was flying high (pardon the pun).

As Neda chief then, I used to cite casual indicators like the mushrooming of small appliance shops in the provinces, TV antennas jutting out from the rooftops of even the humblest of abodes, surging beer sales in the rural areas, slower business for pawnshops, and the like. That was when I had instructed the Neda regional offices to develop a quarterly regional economic indicators system based on such more informal measures. Since regionally disaggregated GDP growth data were not available on a quarterly basis then and even now, we sought to meet the demand for more timely indicators of the economic pulse in the regions in this manner.

Price stability

Looking back at the past year, there indeed appear to be very positive developments on the economic front. Foremost among these is greater price stability, seen in the easing of the inflation rate. After averaging 7.6 percent in 2005 and even courting double-digit levels in certain months then, it has slowed down to a more comfortable 3.9 percent as of last month. The opinion surveys consistently show that rising prices are the foremost economic concern of the common Filipino. Why is it, then, that people don't seem to appreciate—or feel—this very significant improvement in the economy?

I suppose people cannot be happy simply with a slower increase in prices, which is what a lower inflation rate means. They want to see an actual drop in prices, which would imply deflation, or a negative inflation rate. This is something the Japanese had been having for over a decade—and yet regarded also as a big problem. The problem with deflation is it normally comes with a weakening economy, one that is providing less jobs and more misery. We obviously wouldn't want that either.

Stronger peso

The single biggest reason for the slowing inflation rate is actually the strengthening peso. We have a highly import-dependent economy, not because we consume too much imported finished goods (we do not; these account for less than a fifth of total import value). It's more because much of our domestic production relies on imported inputs spanning the range from capital equipment and fuel to raw materials and intermediate inputs. Thus, costs of production are heavily influenced by the exchange rate, which directly affects the cost of imported inputs.

As such, a stronger peso translates into savings in production costs. Ideally, this should mean lower prices for most commodities. Unfortunately for us consumers, prices are "sticky downwards," i.e. it is so much easier for producers and merchants to raise prices when costs go up than for them to lower prices when costs go down. This, by the way, gives us another clue why the benefits of the stronger peso are accruing to a mere few—and those few appear to be really cashing in! At the very least, though, the stronger peso has translated into more stable prices.

Heroes and martyrs

There is something peculiar about our economic circumstances today. More than just bringing in much-needed foreign exchange, our overseas workers deserve a large part of the credit for our slowing inflation rate. They are, indeed, heroes twice over. Apart from the effects of the weakening US dollar, their record remittances—almost $13 billion last year—have helped strengthen the peso, and as explained above, stabilize prices. But here lies yet another irony in our current situation. These "heroes" who have done so much to keep the overall economy afloat are also among the most hurt by current circumstances. Columnist Tony Abaya points out that a $300 monthly remittance worth P16,500 last year is now worth only P14,475, a net drop of P2,025 every month. That means eight million low-income families are now poorer by a collective total of P16.2 billion a month, or P194.4 billion a year. Not even a slower inflation rate makes up for that very real loss.

Our OFWs are not only heroes. In our current situation, they and the millions of Filipinos in their families have actually become martyrs.

Comments are welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

RP role in trade talks lauded

By Christine A. Gaylican

DIRECTOR GENERAL Pascal Lamy of the World Trade Organization has recognized the Philippines' crucial role in advancing trade negotiations, but has urged President Macapagal-Arroyo and her economic team to remain as one of the world's key partners in promoting better access for global trade.

These were among fundamental points raised by Lamy after his 45-minute closed door meeting with President Arroyo, Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila and Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap.

"Lamy recognized and thanked the President because the Philippines has been a constructive partner in the WTO," Yap said.

However, Lamy also pointed out that the main purpose for his visit was to achieve a consensus among member-countries to resume trade negotiations after it bogged down since the Hong Kong WTO Ministerial Meeting in December 2005.

"He told the President that what he was doing is to build a consensus and possibly a compromise to get the stalled talks moving and for major players to really agree on the terms to make a breakthrough in negotiations," Yap said in an interview Friday night.

Ms Arroyo noted in the discussion with Lamy that other major players in the WTO, including Brazil, India and China, have identified their respective positions, which had been limiting and narrowed down windows of opportunity to really score a breakthrough, he said.

Lamy, on the other hand, assured President Arroyo that he recognized the importance of trade mechanisms being pushed by the Philippines, Indonesia and the rest of the Group of 33 developing countries.

"He stressed how important is the Special Products (SPs) trade mechanism for us, for developing countries with sensitive agriculture and rural sectors," Yap added.

Lamy cited that "developing countries will be allowed to shield part of their imports from the impact of tariff reductions through these trade mechanisms."

However, Lamy also stressed "that the effort to protect the interests of the developing countries should not be allowed to derail the overall objective of increasing market access for global trade," he said.

The Philippines and Indonesia are batting for the full implementation of the SPs and Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) necessary for developing countries to reduce at their own pace the duties on sensitive agricultural products because of their importance to food and livelihood security and rural development. The SPs and SSMs were official declarations during the WTO Ministerial Meeting in Hong Kong that the developed countries opposed.

The implementation of enhanced special safeguard mechanisms would allow developing country-members of the WTO to charge higher duties on products threatened by

RP ROLE/ B3

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RP role in trade talks lauded

From page B2

cheap imports.

Lamy also mentioned that he would not hesitate to use his powers to actively arbitrate among member-countries if it was really necessary to finally achieve a breakthrough in negotiations, according to Yap.

Developed countries such as the United States and the European Union have reportedly insisted on implementing further tariff reductions without committing reductions in their own domestic and export subsidies.

A study by the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), a group of rich countries, showed that the EU provided $114.5 billion in farm subsidies while the US extended $54 billion in producers' support annually since 1999.

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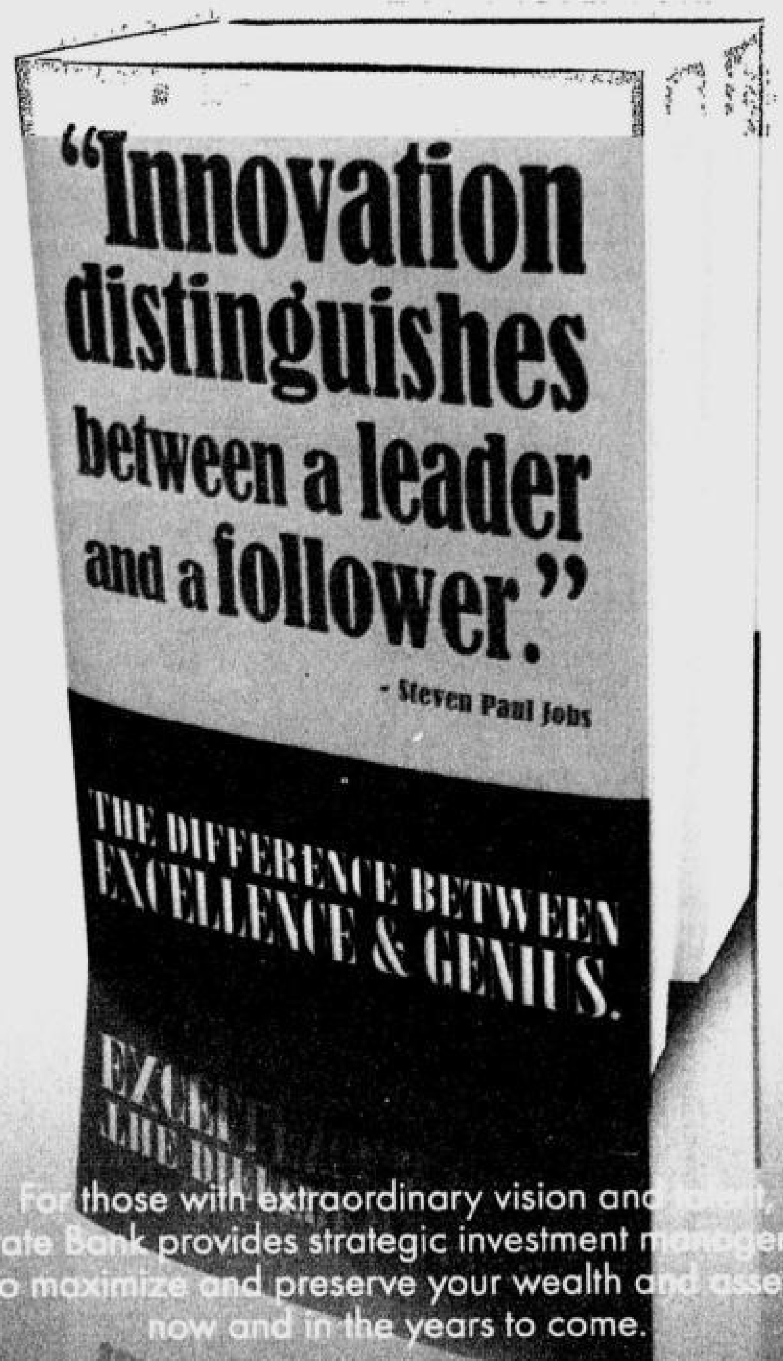
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Public sector deficit down 55% to ₱43.4B in '06

By Michelle V. Remo

THE ENTIRE PUBLIC SECTOR likely posted a consolidated budget deficit of P43.4 billion in 2006, a 55-percent drop from the P97.5-billion shortfall the previous year, according to the Department of Finance.

The preliminary figure on the consolidated public sector deficit (CPSD) for 2006 was much better than the P128.1-billion ceiling set under the 2006 fiscal program.

CPSD is the combined deficits of the national government, local government units and state-owned firms.

The estimated drop in the CPSD last year was largely attributed to the ability of the national government to trim down its own budget deficit by nearly 60 percent to only P62.2 billion from the P146.8 billion in 2005.

The reduction in the national government's deficit was partly due to an increase in revenue collection, but was largely attributed to tight spending resulting from the reenactment of the national budget.

The government proposed a P1.05-trillion national budget for 2006. Congress, however, failed to pass the proposed budget, forcing the national government to operate using the reenacted budget of 2005, which was about P100 billion lower.

Documents from the DOF showed that aside from the national government, other contributors to the CPSD last year were government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs), which accounted for P26 billion of the deficit.

Another P19.2 billion spent for paying debts of the old central bank also added to the CPSD last year.

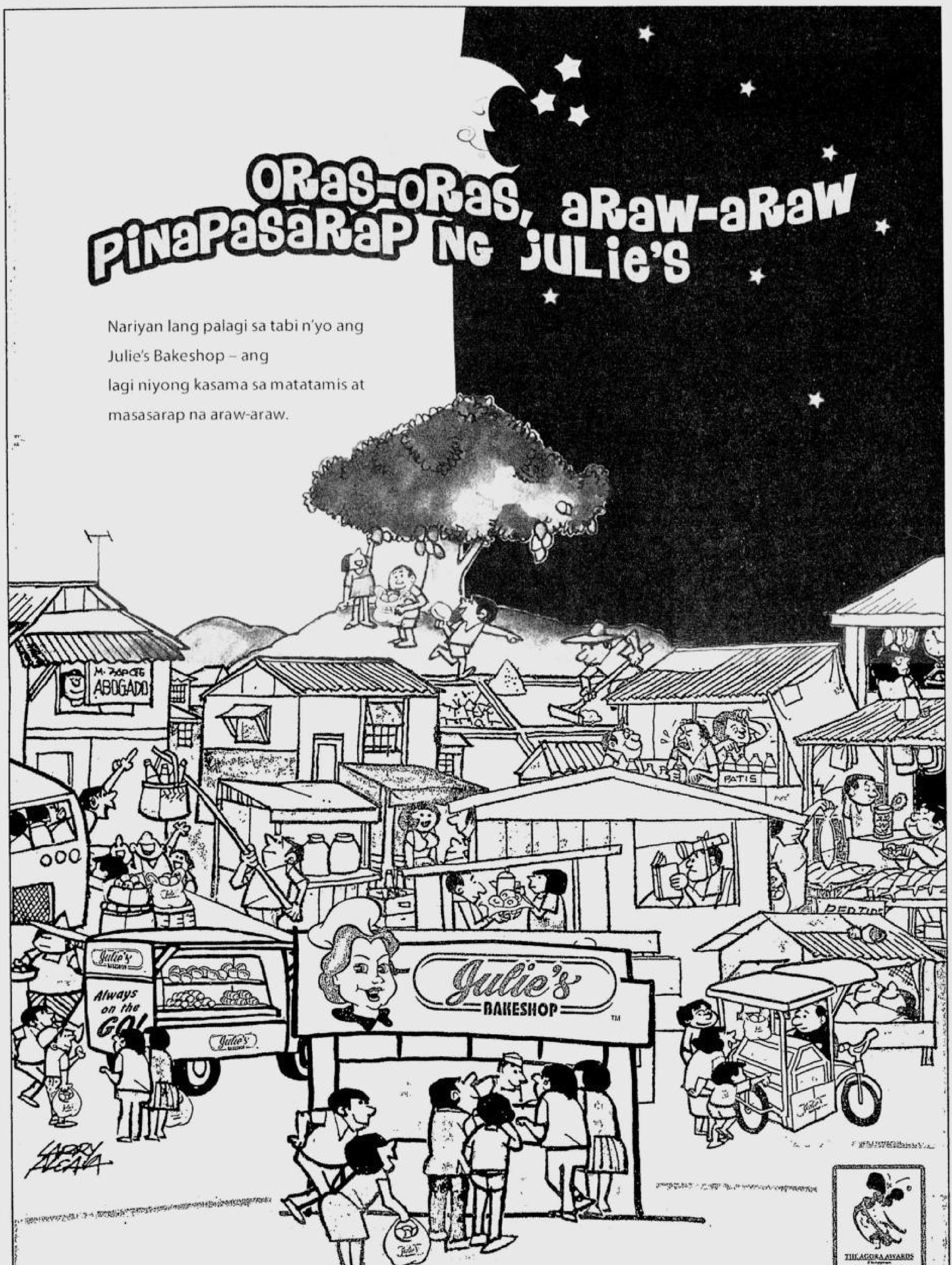
The combined deficits of the national government and GOCCs, plus payment for the old central bank's debts were, however, partially offset by the surpluses of other government entities.

Government financial institutions (GFIs), which include Land Bank of the Philippines and Development Bank of the Philippines, likely posted a surplus of P8.1 billion. Local government units (LGUs) were seen to have registered a surplus of P7.2 billion, while the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas was projected to have recorded a surplus of P1 billion. The Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System posted a surplus of P36.7 billion.

The DOF also estimated that P10.8 billion worth of adjustments added to the list of surplus items. Adjustments are the corrections made from previous computations that were either overstated or understated.

The public sector's budget position has consistently been in the red since 1997, when the CPSD amounted to P19.47 billion. The deficit had grown year on year until it reached P233.46 billion in 2004.

A drop in the CPSD, however, was first recorded in 2005, when the deficit fell to only P97.5 billion following the implementation of several revenue-enhancement measures by the national government.



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Excise tax collections up 5.8% in 2006

EXCISE TAXES COLLECTED BY THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue were down 5.8 percent to P58.2 billion in 2006 from P61.8 billion a year ago, dragged down by the government's move to slash excise tax rates on petroleum and the decline in the collection of the impost from manufacturers of alcoholic drinks.

The 2006 excise tax collections also fell short by 2.7 percent of the P59.79-billion target set by the national government for the year.

Excise tax is levied on petroleum and so-called "sin" products, which include alcoholic beverages and tobacco. More than a means of generating revenues for the government, excise tax is imposed ideally to discourage excessive consumption of the products covered.

Still, excise tax is the third-biggest tax type in terms of generating revenues for the government after income tax and the value-added tax (VAT).

Assistant Internal Revenue Commissioner Nestor Valeroso, who also heads the agency's large taxpayers service (LTS), said in an interview that the drop in excise tax collections were the natural consequence of the reduced excise tax rates on petroleum.

The government cut the excise tax rates on petroleum to mitigate the impact of the imposition of VAT on the previously VAT-exempt products on consumers.

The imposition of VAT on oil and other previously exempted items was one of the basic provisions of the VAT Reform Law, which also raised the tax rate to 12 percent from 10 percent. The expanded coverage of the VAT took effect in November 2005, while the higher VAT rate was imposed starting February last year.

Aside from petroleum, previously exempted electricity and services of doctors and lawyers are now covered by VAT.

Despite stiff opposition from various sectors, the Arroyo administration's economic managers pushed for its implementation in the belief the tax law was necessary to get the government out of its fiscal mess.

Of the P58.2 billion worth of excise taxes collected last year, P26.8 billion was accounted for by those slapped on tobacco products. This was slightly higher than the P26.6-billion goal and 13-percent up from the P23.7 billion collected the previous year.

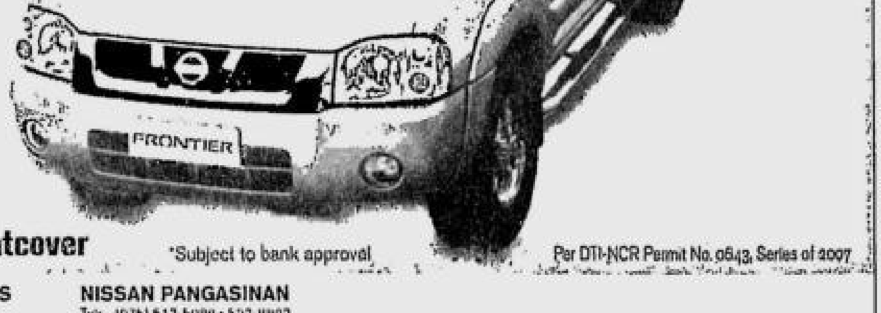
The second-biggest source of excise tax revenues were alcohol products, which accounted for P16.1 billion. This was 11.6-percent lower than the target of P18.2 billion and 5-percent lower than the P17 billion recorded in 2005.

Revenue authorities said they were about to conduct an inquiry into the reasons behind the shortfall in the collection of excise tax on alcohol, but they surmised it had to do with the drop in demand for alcoholic beverages.

Excise tax on petroleum products reached P12.96 billion, 8-percent higher than the goal of P11.98 billion and 31-percent up from P18.7 billion a year ago.

The BIR likewise collected P438 million worth of excise tax on mineral products, 25-percent higher than the goal of P350 million, and up 74 percent from the P251 million collected the the previous year.

The tax agency also collected P1.87 billion worth of excise tax on miscellaneous products. *Michelle V. Remo*



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NISSAN

Local exporters seeking greater involvement in trade negotiations

By Ronnel W. Domingo

EXPORTERS ARE PUSHING FOR GREATER involvement in trade negotiations in an effort to correct past mistakes of "liberalizing the Philippine market too fast and providing weak safety nets."

Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., president of the Philippine Exporters Confederation or Philexport, said government representatives participated in previous trade talks when they were not very well informed about the effects of liberalization on various business sectors.

"If we have been proactive then, we would have easily raised a howl (on hurtful trade commitments before they were ever made)," Ortiz-Luis said. "But it is only now that we are realizing this."

He added: "Now we have a big say and transparency is almost 100 percent."

Donald G. Dee, special envoy for trade negotiations, who is also a Philexport trustee, said the group would continue to push for 'satisfactory' provisions of special products and a more effective special safeguard mechanism against import surges, which also should be for exclusive use of developing and least developed countries.

"(There should be no) further commitments (to cut tariffs) on products that are important for food and livelihood security and rural development needs," Dee said.

For industrial products, he said Philexport proposed that tariffs should be cut in a way that developing and developed countries would have enough policy space to give their industries the leeway to adjust to unprecedented movements in global prices and trade trends.

"In our case, bound tariffs (that maximum level that is allowed) of below 5 percent will be harmful because this removes policy space," Dee said.

For the services sector, Philexport vowed to continue lobbying extensively for the application of mutual recognition agreements and easier movement of labor on key services such as engineering, accounting, nursing, care-giving.

"It should be reasserted that the main objective of the multilateral trading system (under the World Trade Organization) is the development of developing countries which form majority of the members," Dee said.

He said liberalization was a means and there should be sufficient flexibility to implement measures when appropriate.

"The goal and dimension must be primary in WTO rules and in the assessment of proposals," Dee said.

Last Friday, WTO Director General Pascal Lamy, who was visiting the country, told a forum of businessmen that the Philippines was entitled to special and differential tariffs and other flexibilities because it was a developing country.

However, Lamy said the country was not exempt from giving concessions to trade partners.

PPCRV strategy to combat cheating

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

WILL THE RESULTS OF THE MAY elections be credible? Or, as in the 2004, will there be wild accusations of widespread cheating?

To help combat cheating, the Comelec has accredited the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting as the citizens' watchdog. PPCRV is backed by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines. When the parishes nationwide are harnessed, PPCRV will be a potent force.

With missionary fervor, PPCRV will be fielding half a million volunteers to watch over the counting of the votes in 250,000 precincts. Each watcher will be armed with an operating manual, written with the help of Comelec and CBCP.

In the meantime, Namfrel is having problems getting Comelec accreditation. Namfrel's claim to fame is that it has been the citizens' watchdog in 16 elections. Comelec should restore Namfrel's accreditation. The wealth of experience alone is priceless, and should not be shelved. Besides, I do not agree that Namfrel has been biased in its reporting. Namfrel has also been accused of trending; that is, the results of the favorite candidate are tabulated ahead to create a bandwagon effect. But trending is useless because, when Namfrel starts tabulating results, everybody has already voted.

Working together, PPCRV and Namfrel will be more effective. The more eyes there are watching the counting, the better.

The most effective way to fight cheating is to have the nationwide results published within 24 hours from the close of the precincts. This feat can be accomplished with the maximum use of the latest telecom technology. Every watcher should be armed with a cell phone. The national headquarters of PPCRV and Namfrel should be geared to take in the massive flow of information from the watchers and trumpet the results to the whole world. I am glad to see the radio and TV networks and the major dailies are pitching in.

If the precinct results are not out within 24 hours, then the window is open to widespread cheating.

But the real battle will still be at the official canvassing or tabulating of the precinct results. This is done in the dark recesses of the municipal/city treasurer's office, away from the eyes of the public. This is where the notorious *dagdag-bawas* scam is done.

If the charters of PPCRV and Namfrel do not allow them to post their watchers at the canvassing, then the Comelec should require that the canvassing be done in the open for everyone to watch. Even the smallest municipality has a courtyard in front of the town hall that can be used for open-air canvassing.

PPCRV has also embarked on a program of voter education. This program apparently targets the rural voter. This is fine. But the rural voter is not as ignorant as many people think. And their votes are not always for sale.

Which brings me to my friend Enzo, a slash-and-burn or *kaingin* farmer at the edge of a virgin forest up in the foothills of Mt. Isarog in my hometown Naga City. We chatted at dinner some years ago. I asked him why he was voting in the next elections. He said, "If I do not vote, I will be like the wild animals roaming around my *kaingin*." When we have citizens like Enzo, this country of ours has a bright future.

First Cagayan license extended by 25 years

FIRST CAGAYAN LEISURE AND Resort Corp. has obtained a 25-year extension of its exclusive master license for interactive gaming in the Cagayan Economic Zone.

"The Cagayan Economic Zone Authority granted the initial license to First Cagayan in 2001 which was valid for five years," said First Cagayan chair and president Albee Benitez.

According to Benitez, this license was contingent upon the ability of First Cagayan to perform its role in attracting qualified investors as well as developing a viable revenue-generating business model.

"Ceza granted the extension after First Cagayan proved itself as a capable partner in attracting foreign firms and in setting up world-class interactive gaming facilities," Benitez said.

As the master licensor, First Cagayan takes care of evaluating the interactive online applications of its locators. All locators go through a probity check conducted by a third party. An extensive background and credit check on the company submitting their application as well as all the directors and principals of the corporation are performed. Successful applicants then complete their application fee to receive their interactive gaming license. First Cagayan generates revenues from licensing fees and a percent of net wins from the online gaming companies.

First Cagayan is 69.68-percent owned by listed firm Leisure and Resorts World Corp.

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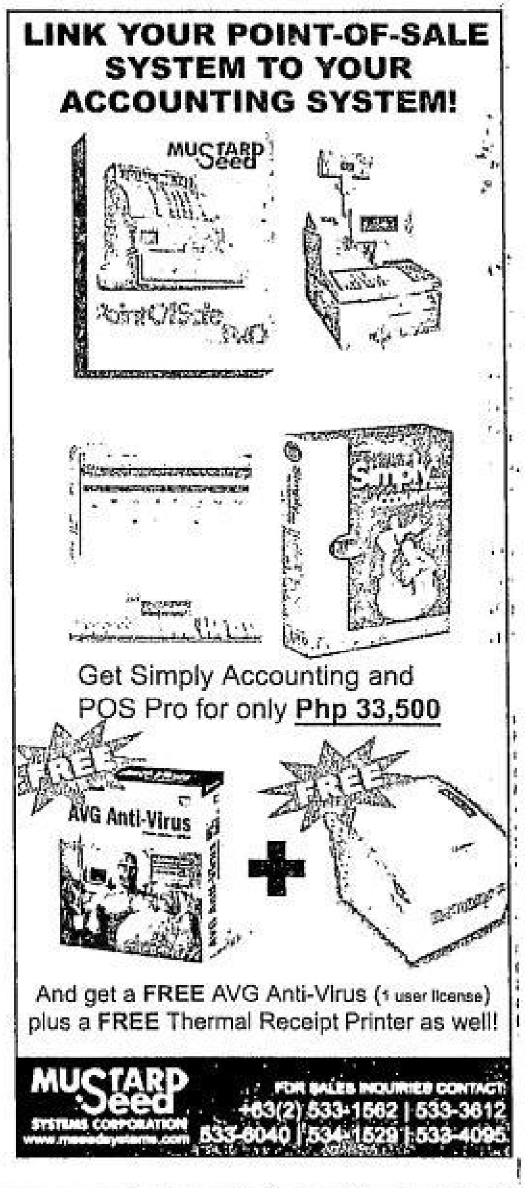

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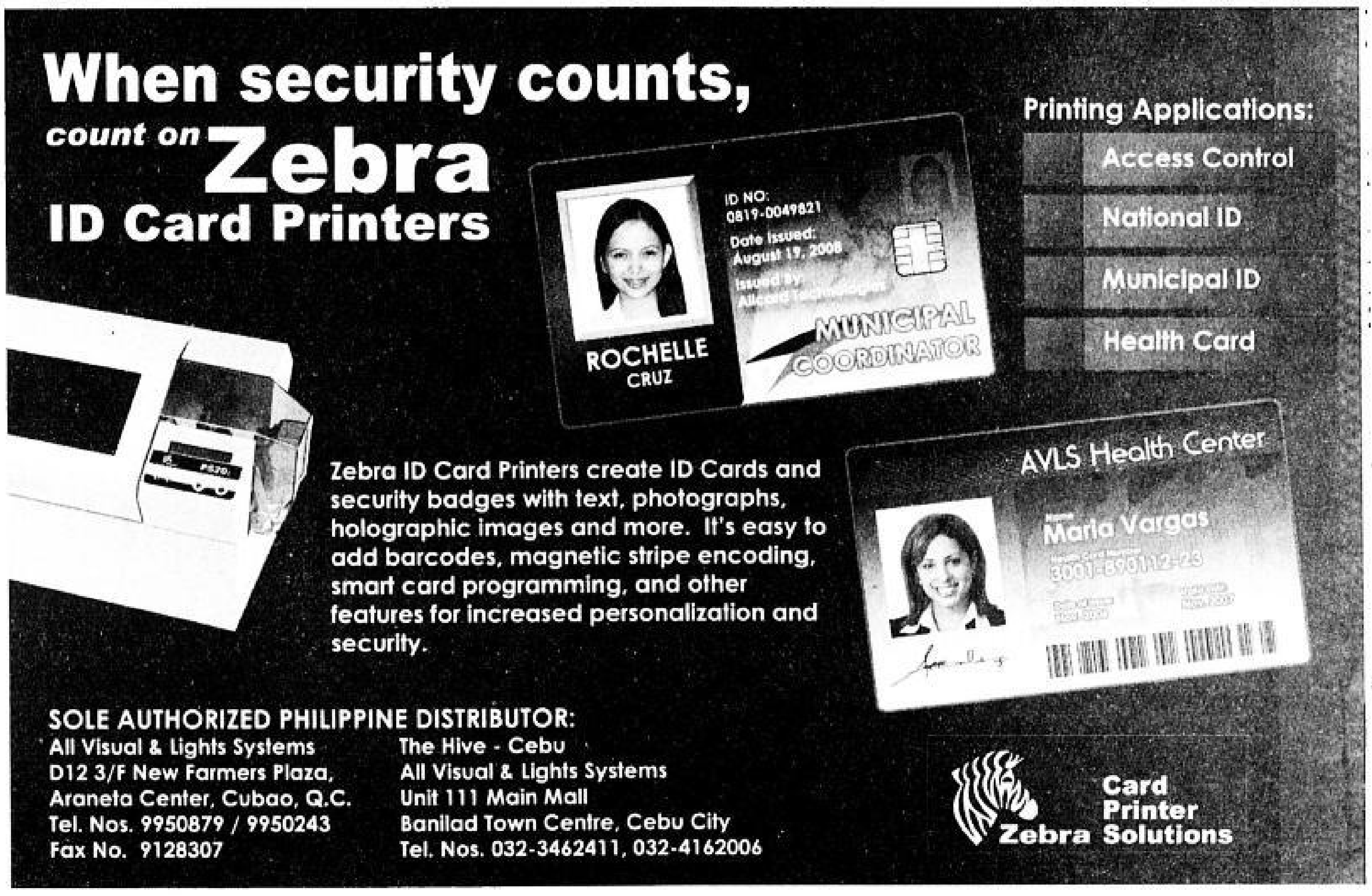

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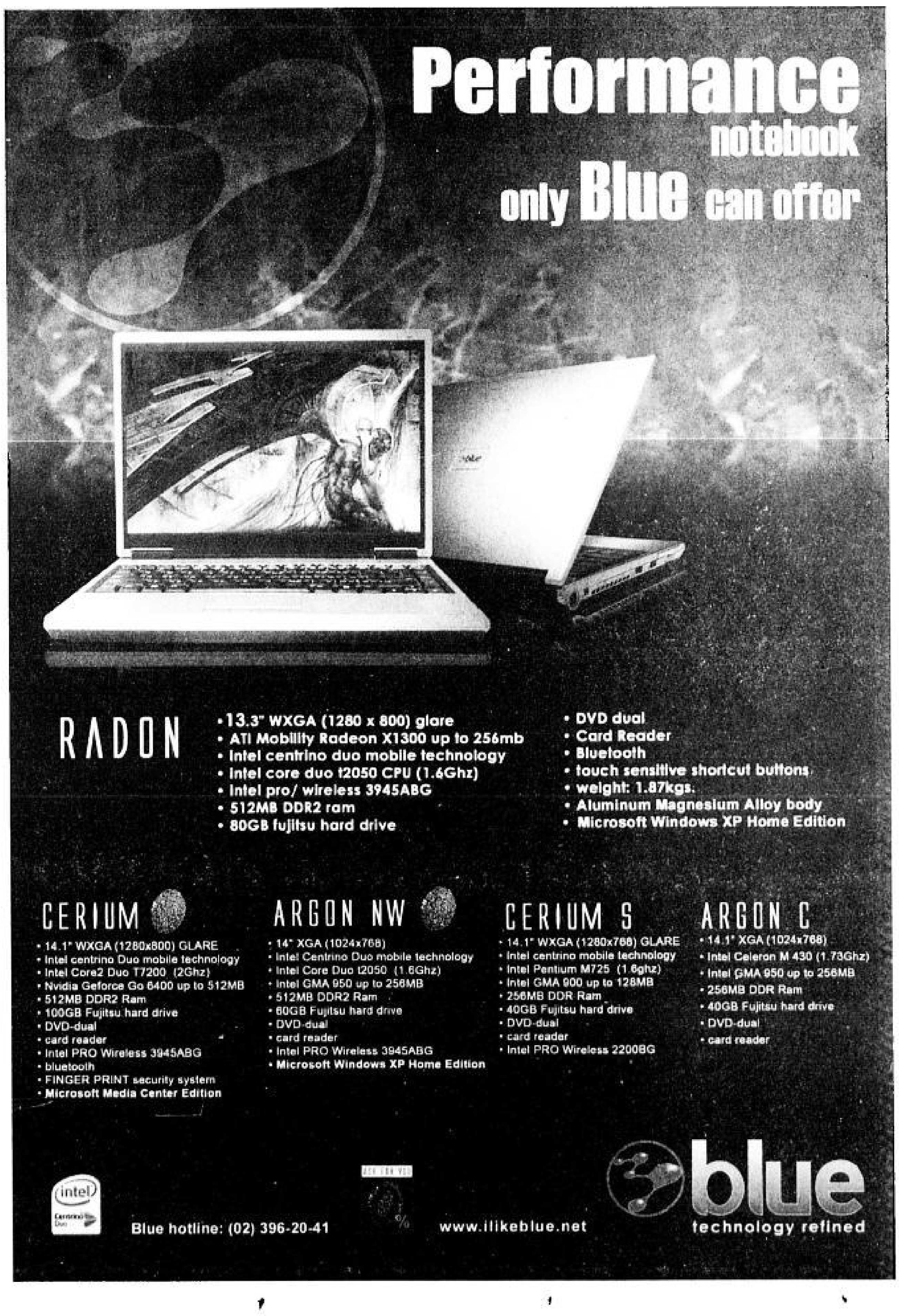

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Lopez unit issues ₱3B in bonds

Funds may be used in consolidating FPHC interests in toll roads business

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

FIRST PHILIPPINE HOLDINGS CORP. (FPHC), the investment arm of the Lopez family for its infrastructure and power generation businesses, floated on Friday P3 billion worth of fixed rate corporate bonds.

The bonds will mature in five to seven years, FPHC vice president Federico Lopez said.

ING Bank NV was appointed the sole bookrunner and lead manager for the debt notes.

Lopez said the proceeds from the float would be used to help consolidate FPHC's interests in toll roads business in the event that other shareholders dispose of their respective shares.

Manila North Tollways Corp. (MNTC), the builder and concessionaire of the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), is 67.1-percent controlled by First Philippine Infrastructure Development Corp. (FPIDC) which, in turn, is owned by First Philippine Holdings Corp. (FPHC) and Benpres Holdings Corp. (BHC) of the Lopez Group.

Other shareholders of MNTC are the Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC) , Leighton Asia (Southern) Ltd. (Leighton) and Egis Projects SA (Egis). Both firms are heavily involved in toll road development, construction and operation.

MNTC started the commercial operations of NLEX on Feb. 10, 2005, opening for the riding public's use 138 new lane kilometers and 295 upgraded lane kilometers.

The rehabilitated NLEX cut travel time from Balintawak to Sta. Ines (Mabalacat, Pampanga) by 50 percent. This paved the way for the establishments of a number of economic zones in Central Luzon, including First Clarkway Industry park in Pampanga, Hermosa Economic Zone in Bataan, Palayan City Agri-Industrial Center in Nueva Ecija and PNOC Petrochemical Industrial Estate II in Mariveles, Bataan.

Del Monte '06 profit up 13%

DEL MONTE PACIFIC LIMITED, THE world's largest pineapple grower, posted a 13-percent growth in net profit last year to $21 million from $18 million in 2005, reversing three consecutive years of profit decline, the company said in a disclosure to the Stock Exchange of Singapore.

Del Monte also said its revenue last year rose by 9.5 percent to $243.4 million from the previous year's $222.26 million.

Fourth quarter net income jumped 62 percent to $9.2 million from $5.65 million in the same quarter last year.

Del Monte Pacific was acquired early last year by NutriAsia Pacific Ltd., a joint venture between the NutriAsia Group of the Campos family and San Miguel Corp. The new management team joined Del Monte Pacific in March 2006.

"We are pleased with the robust performance in the second half of 2006. The company is back on the growth track and the momentum is very encouraging going into 2007," said Ramon S. Ang, Del Monte chair.

Net income for the second half registered a 66-percent growth which was attributed to better volumes, brand-building programs, and transition cost-saving initiatives under the new management. This reversed the 31 percent decline in first half net income and brought full year results back to growth path, the company said in its disclosure.

Growth in the second half was strongest in the Philippines, mirroring improved volume, the favorable impact of the peso appreciation, cost savings from transition initiatives, growth of processed fruits and a new focus on leveraging the company's beverage segment.

The robust sales growth in the country accompanied gains in Del Monte's other markets. New businesses led by Del Monte Pacific's China-subsidiary Great Lakes and Del Monte Foods India also posted higher revenues, contributing $14.3 million or 6 percent of the group's 2006 revenues.

Del Monte also expects future earnings from its ongoing cost efficiency program, which to date has yielded savings of $1.3 million. The program includes consolidation of toll-pack operations, warehouse rationalization, improvements in production and trucking scheduling, and reduction in packaging and agricultural input costs.

Working together with new owners NutriAsia and San Miguel also resulted in significant operational synergies, the company said. These include joint media purchase and Del Monte's provision of cattle fattening service to San Miguel using pineapple pulp for additional revenues.

"We are encouraged that the initiatives we put in place are starting to bear fruit," says Joselito D. Campos, Jr., managing director and Del Monte chief executive officer. "This is just the beginning and there will be more business-building activities going forward.

Elizabeth S. Lacson

SMIC starts building second BPO facility

SM INVESTMENTS CORP. (SMIC), THE flagship company of mall tycoon Henry Sy, said it recently broke ground on its second business process outsourcing (BPO) building for call center operator PeopleSupport at SM Baguio Cyberzone.

In a groundbreaking ceremony held in Baguio, SMIC vice chair Henry Sy Jr. said, "The Philippines has seen a tremendous growth in the BPO/Contact Center industry in just a few years of its development, providing significant job opportunities to our educated and skilled labor force."

The new facility opens hundreds of career opportunities for professionals not just in Baguio City, but in other northern Luzon provinces as well.

SM's property group, he continued, has aligned itself with the market demands of this growing industry by providing well-planned and integrated office facilities to BPOs and contact centers in strategic locations.

"The SM Group is well positioned for this because of its sizable land bank and commercial properties in major cities across the country, where malls complement other uses like offices," he added.

SMIC has developed the same model for SM BayCity in Manila, where Dell and Teletech now occupy some 22,000 square meters of office space. Before yearend, the company will see the completion of another 65,000 square meters of office space in SM BayCity called SM OneE-comCenter, catering to e-commerce and BPO firms. Also in the pipeline is a 17,000-square meter-call center in Makati City slated for completion in early 2008. *Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson*

Market seen testing new highs

THE STOCK MARKET SEEMS TO BE IN THE mood to test new highs this week, analysts said.

However, they said profit-taking was expected to be part of the cycle this week as investors become more sober.

The Philippine Stock Exchange index nearly touched the 3,400-mark twice last week but failed to reach new all-time highs, AB Capital Securities noted in its weekly report.

"Local share prices, however, remained resilient on corrections, suggesting that the bullish market sentiment is still prevailing. Despite the non-movement of blue-chip issues, the PSE managed to post a 1.6- percent gain week-on-week," the online broker said.

This week, investors are still expected to bet on property shares with the continued slide in benchmark treasury bill rates below 3 percent.

AB Capital Securities said that such a scenario would translate to more property sales as real estate buyers were taking advantage of low home mortgage financing.

Investors will also be prepped up by earnings announcements of several companies. Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) is set to announce its results on March 6.

Stock market analysts are expecting the phone giant to report slightly higher earnings in 2006 to around P30 billion from P29 billion in the previous year. The expectation for a modest increase was due to a slowdown in the growth of cellular phone revenue, and a stronger peso that lowered dollar-linked revenues.

PLDT is expecting earnings revenues from broadband services to contribute substantially to its revenue in the long run, analysts also said.

Port operator International Container Terminal Services will also hold its annual stockholder's meeting on March 7.

AB Capital Securities noted that ICTSI share prices reached a high of P30.50 last week after it reported record earnings of P1.83 billion in 2006, up 37 percent from the previous year's P1.35 billion.

ICTSI traced the significant gains to growing container handling volumes at its international units and positive volume growth in their Manila terminal.

In the meantime, AB Capital said there seemed to be no strong selling pressure due to the lack of alternative investments outside the stock market for now.

"It is turning out to be difficult for traders who are waiting on the sidelines to buy on dips. At the rate investors keep pouring in, we are almost certain to test all-time high las early as the first quarter this year," a broker said. *Elizabeth S. Lacson*

GGCA Club Shares
SEC License Broker # 00131 • As of February 26, 2007

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,200,000	1,050,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	1,200,000	1,100,000
Anvaya Cove Beach and Nature Club	Please Call	-
Baguio Country Club	600,000	540,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	40,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	60,000	50,000
Camp John Hay	330,000	300,000
Canlubang	450,000	420,000
Capitol Hills	40,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,800,000	1,500,000
Celebrity Sports Club	120,000	100,000
Club Filipino	100,000	90,000
Eagleridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	-
Forest Hills "A"	90,000	75,000
Forest Hills "B"	150,000	-
Forest Hills "C"	200,000	-
Luisita Golf "A"	350,000	270,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	200,000	180,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	250,000	190,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	13,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	-	11,600,000
Manila Polo	Please Call	2,700,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	300,000	-
Manila Southwoods "B"	750,000	650,000
Manila Yacht Club	250,000	-
Mimosa (Individual)	230,000	200,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	650,000	500,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	180,000	-
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	350,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "A"	180,000	150,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	300,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "C"	400,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	150,000	140,000
Spa & Lodge	-	450,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,300,000	1,150,000
Sta. Elena "B"	2,150,000	1,800,000
Summit Point "A"	280,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	300,000	280,000
Tagaytay Highlands	700,000	630,000
Tagaytay Midlands	Please Call	620,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	100,000	-
Valley Golf	200,000	180,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	-	7,300,000

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As of February 26, 2007

SHARES AVAILABLE

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A/B*	1,100,000/Pls. Call*	1,050,000
Alta Vista A/B*/Corp.**	-	300,000/Pls. Call*/Pls Call**
Baguio Country Club	-	500,000
Camp John Hay	Pls. Call	300,000
Canlubang Golf	500,000	420,000
Canyon Woods	100,000	-
Capitol Hills	50,000	-
Cebu Country Club	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Celebrity Sports	Pls. Call	80,000
Club Filipino	90,000	-
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	170,000/Pls. Call*/Pls. Call**	200,000*
Eastridge A/B*	150,000*	-
Evercrest	65,000	-
Fairways & Bluewater	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	90,000/150,000*	120,000*
Luisita Golf	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Manila Golf Corporate	Pls. Call	12,600,000
Manila Golf Individual	Pls. Call	11,600,000
Manila Polo	Pls. Call	2,700,000
Manila Southwoods A/B*	300,000/Pls. Call*	-
Makati Sports Club A	200,000	-
Manila Yacht Club Ind.	280,000	-
Metropolitan Club A/B*	160,000	-
Mimosa Ind./C2*/C3**	220,000	Pls. Call/550,000**
ML Malarayat A	180,000	-
Orchard A/B*/C**	180,000/Pls. Call*/350,000**	150,000
Punta Fuego	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Quezon City Sports Club	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	80,000/170,000*/250,000**	Pls. Call*
Rockwell Leisure Club	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Royale Tagaytay CC	65,000	-
Sherwood A/B*/C**	70,000/150,000**	100,000*
Splendido Taal	200,000	Pls. Call
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	Pls. Call	-
Subic Golf	190,000	-
Summit Point A	300,000	-
The Palms Country Club	380,000	330,000
Country Club at Tagaytay Highlands	390,000	-
Tagaytay Highlands	650,000	630,000
Tagaytay Midlands	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
The Country Club	2,000,000	-
Tower Club A/B*	150,000/180,000*	-
Valley Golf	-	180,000
Valle Verde Ind.	Pls. Call	80,000
Wack Wack Golf	8,000,000	7,500,000

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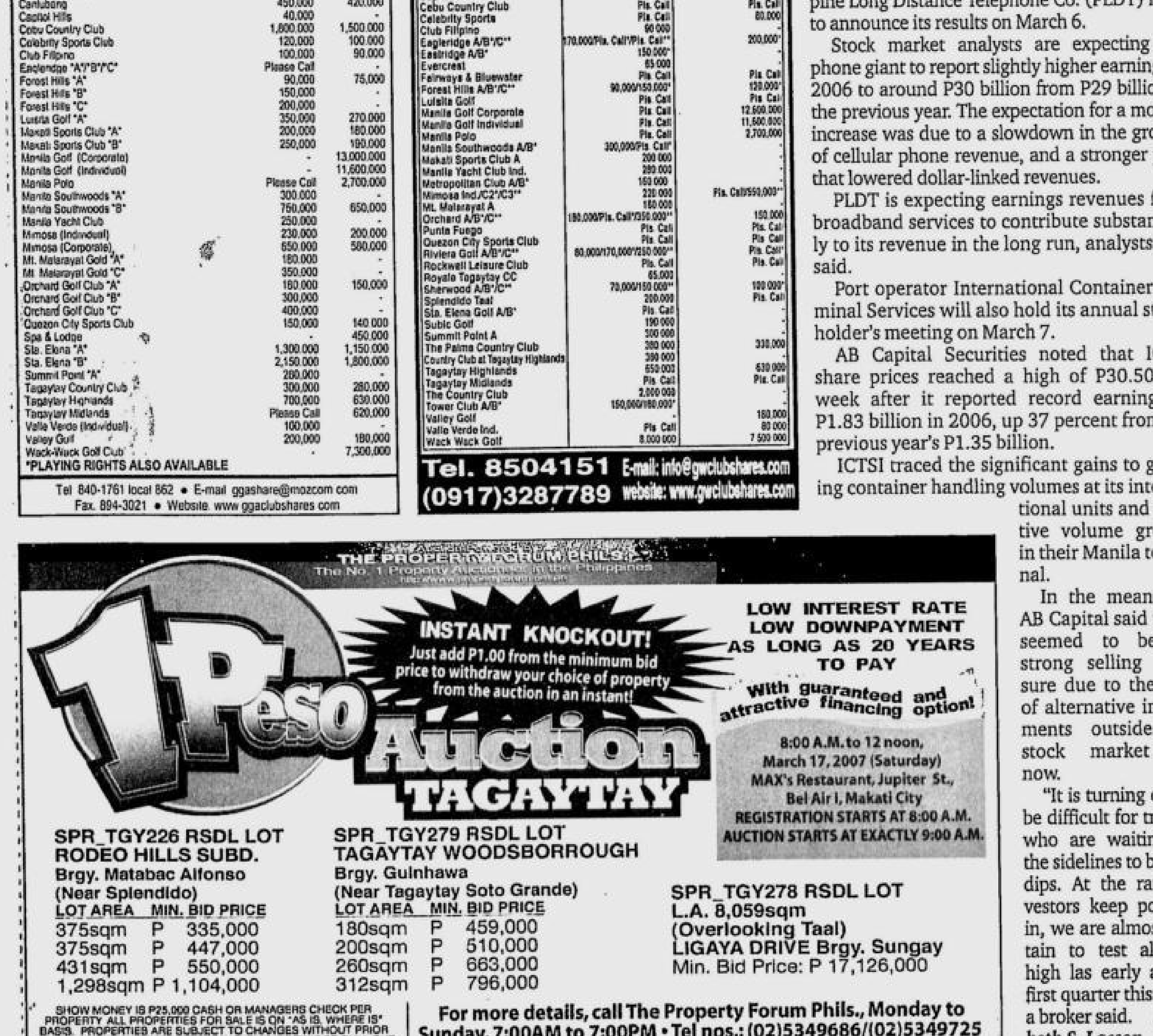

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AUCTION STARTS AT EXACTLY 9:00 A.M.

SPR_TGY226 RSDL LOT
RODEO HILLS SUBD.
Brgy. Matabac Alfonso
(Near Splendido)

LOT AREA	MIN. BID PRICE
375sqm	P 335,000
375sqm	P 447,000
431sqm	P 550,000
1,298sqm	P 1,104,000

SPR_TGY279 RSDL LOT
TAGAYTAY WOODSBORROUGH
Brgy. Guinhawa
(Near Tagaytay Soto Grande)

LOT AREA	MIN. BID PRICE
180sqm	P 459,000
200sqm	P 510,000
260sqm	P 663,000
312sqm	P 796,000

SPR_TGY278 RSDL LOT
L.A. 8,059sqm
(Overlooking Taal)
LIGAYA DRIVE Brgy. Sungay
Min. Bid Price: P 17,126,000

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of February 23, 2007)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	13.5	13.5	12.75	13	234,800
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	63	63	62	62.5	5,441,700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	69	69.5	69	69.5	639,600
China Banking Corp.	900	930	900	930	7,590
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	38	39	38	39	7,900
Citystate Savings Bank	19.75	19.75	19.75	19.75	600
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.59	0.6	0.59	0.59	16,710,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	112	112	111	111	435,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	66	67	66	67	2,093,100
Philippine National Bank	54	54.5	53.5	54.5	88,000
Phil. Savings Bank	66	68	66	68	40,900
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	42	42.5	42	42	112,100
Security Bank Corp.	87.5	87.5	84.5	84.5	127,200
Union Bank of the Phil.	65	66.5	65	66.5	70,100
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Atr Kimeng Fin. Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.7	3,000
Bankard Inc.	0.68	0.7	0.68	0.7	300,000
Citiseconline Com Inc.	7.4	7.7	7.4	7.6	4,364,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1630	1630	1620	1620	500
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	2.16	2.16	2.12	2.12	181,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	700	1005	700	800	123,870
Ivantage Corp.	1.76	1.8	1.74	1.78	4,785,000
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
PNOC Energy Dev. Corp.	6.1	6.6	6	6.6	96,082,000
First Gen Corp.	58	58	57	58	526,700
First Phil Hldgs Corp	78.5	81	78.5	78.5	851,900
Manila Electric Co. A	77.5	79.5	77.5	79	230,100
Manila Electric Co. B	78.5	79.5	78.5	79.5	474,500
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9.9	10	9.8	9.9	12,110,000
Petron Corp.	4.85	4.85	4.8	4.85	5,214,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.3	1,250,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.48	1.5	1.48	1.5	1,212,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.95	3.95	3.95	3.95	50,000
Cadp Group Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	61,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	26	26	26	26	1,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	53	54.5	53	54.5	842,600
Rfm Corp.	1.52	1.54	1.52	1.54	60,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	2.65	2.7	2.65	2.65	600,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	450,000
San Miguel Corp. A	66.5	66.5	66.5	66.5	23,000
San Miguel Corp. B	78.5	78.5	77.5	77.5	429,900
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4	4	4	4	4,000
Alliance Tuna Int'l. Inc.	2.08	2.08	2.06	2.06	1,715,000
Universal Robina Corp.	20	20.25	19.75	20	1,899,900
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	1.92	1.96	1.9	1.9	17,536,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	4.85	4.9	4.8	4.85	1,252,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.9	94,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.6	4,152,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	5.5	5.8	5.5	5.8	77,000
Republic Cement Corp.	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	1,033,000
CHEMICALS					
Chemrez Technologies Inc.	5.4	5.6	5.3	5.5	5,407,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	130,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	20,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.42	0.43	0.4	0.41	81,300,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.65	0.65	0.6	0.6	300,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.014	296,400,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	59,000,000
Ayala Corp.	610	625	610	620	760,670
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.8	0.83	0.8	0.82	970,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	8.8	8.9	8.7	8.8	5,200,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	10,100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	3.35	3.4	3.3	3.4	1,246,000
Apc Group Inc.	0.41	0.43	0.41	0.42	3,510,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	54,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	1.18	1.26	1.16	1.22	12,876,000
Atn Holdings Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	5,000
Atn Holdings Inc. B	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	4,000
Pal Holdings Inc.	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.9	255,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	3.8	4.95	3.8	4.4	6,802,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	18,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.15	4.35	4.15	4.3	19,796,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.6	807,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.92	1	0.92	1	210,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.7	2,746,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	18,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	410,000
Global Business Hldgs Inc	70	70	70	70	10,400
House of Investments Inc.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	722,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	14	14	13.75	14	908,000
Keppel Holdings	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	15,000
Medco Holdings	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	2,080,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.81	0.81	0.72	0.8	950,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	9.5	10	9.5	10	2,491,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	2.16	2.18	2.08	2.16	4,525,000
Pacifica	0.02	0.021	0.02	0.02	20,200,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.33	0.27	0.33	68,190,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.82	0.83	0.81	0.83	1,100,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.205	0.21	0.205	0.205	33,950,000
SM Investments Corp.	380	390	380	387.5	149,470
South China Resources Inc	1.28	1.28	1.2	1.26	381,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	2.06	2.1	2.02	2.02	568,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.185	0.24	0.185	0.235	4,530,000
Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.39	0.39	290,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	17.25	17.25	16.75	17	12,009,200
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	550,000
Belle Corp.	1.56	1.66	1.54	1.62	40,731,000
A Brown Company Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.44	1.44	1,998,000
Cityland Development Corp	2.7	2.9	2.7	2.8	907,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.47	0.49	0.46	0.48	2,150,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.9	659,000
C & P Homes Inc.	2.85	3.1	2.85	3.05	2,758,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.34	0.35	0.33	0.35	3,880,000
Elb Realty Developers Inc	0.26	0.28	0.26	0.28	120,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.88	0.94	0.88	0.92	75,640,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.78	1.8	1.78	1.8	250,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.07	0.0725	0.07	0.07	1,800,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.92	1.94	1.88	1.88	37,441,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.26	0.28	1,060,000
Gotesco Land Inc. B	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	420,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.6	2.8	2.6	2.8	84,000
Interport Res.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.012	75,500,000
Interport Res. B	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	15,000,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	7,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.57	0.57	0.56	0.57	6,300,000
City & Land Developers	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	20,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.04	1.12	1.04	1.04	30,740,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	1,000,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	500,000
Megaworld Corp.	3.25	3.3	3.25	3.3	69,242,000
Metro Pacific Inv. Corp.	5	5.1	4.9	5.1	346,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	2,600,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.23	2,320,000
Polar Property Holdings	3	3.45	3	3.45	211,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	23	23	22	22	7,371,500
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.68	0.73	0.68	0.71	53,930,000
SM Development Corp.	4.25	4.45	4.25	4.4	1,127,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	12.75	13	12.5	12.75	6,767,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.73	0.84	0.73	0.8	18,820,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.135	0.14	0.135	0.14	12,530,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	26	26	25.5	25.5	111,500
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	35,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.98	1.98	1.96	1.96	19,495,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1390	1390	1375	1375	23,470
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	7.2	7.7	7.2	7.6	18,857,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2590	2610	2590	2610	189,140
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.33	19,010,000
Imperial Res.	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	3,500,000
Ionics Inc.	2.5	2.65	2.5	2.6	1,059,000
Ipvg Corp.	5.8	6.4	5.8	6.3	8,565,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.06	0.0625	0.0575	0.0575	11,800,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	28,000,000
Music Semiconductors Corp	1.4	1.42	1.4	1.42	129,000
Transpacific Broadband	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.7	4,890,000
Philweb Corp.	0.0575	0.06	0.055	0.0575	598,900,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	4.5	4.9	4.5	4.6	243,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	28	30.5	28	29	2,728,700
Keppel Phils. Marine, Inc	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	311,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	1,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	3	3.45	3	3.4	16,931,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	10,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	140,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc	1.04	1.08	1.04	1.08	8,542,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc.	3.55	3.7	3.55	3.7	448,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Easycall Phils. Inc.-Com	5	5.4	5	5.4	12,000
Macroasia Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.7	2.7	3,193,000
Paxys Inc.	30	30	29.5	30	642,200
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	1.42	1.5	1.42	1.5	25,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.4	1,096,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	6.4	6.6	6.4	6.5	631,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	1,676,500,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	9.3	9.4	9.3	9.3	1,098,000
Benguet Corp. A	11.5	12	11.5	12	139,800
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.8	58,000
Geograce Res. Phil. Inc.	1.66	1.82	1.66	1.82	232,465,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.3	0.33	0.3	0.32	89,590,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.32	0.37	0.32	0.37	115,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.03	0.032	0.03	0.032	1,426,400,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.034	0.038	0.034	0.037	773,300,000
Omico Corp.	0.015	0.016	0.014	0.016	2,602,900,000
Philex Mining Corp.	4.25	4.65	4.25	4.6	67,402,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	18.75	19	18.75	18.75	217,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.71	0.76	0.7	0.73	4,860,000
Vulcan Ind'l	1.14	1.26	1.14	1.26	37,924,000
OIL					
Basic Petroleum Corp.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.34	20,130,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.014	92,800,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	223,400,000
The Philodrill Corp.	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.014	1,098,500,000
PNOC Exploration Corp.-B	22	22	22	22	100
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	10	10.25	10	10.25	166,000

CURRENCIES

February 25, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.761905	1.000000	48.2680
Japan	Yen	0.006270	0.008230	0.3972
United Kingdom	Pound	1.490667	1.956500	94.4363
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.097543	0.128025	6.1795
Switzerland	Franc	0.615234	0.807494	38.9761
Canada	Dollar	0.656079	0.861104	41.5638
Singapore	Dollar	0.496905	0.652188	31.4798
Australia	Dollar	0.602153	0.790326	38.1475
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.021128	2.652731	128.0420
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.203321	0.266859	12.8809
Brunei	Dollar	0.495290	0.650068	31.3775
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000110	0.0053
Thailand	Baht	0.022508	0.029542	1.4259
UAE	Dirham	0.207462	0.272294	13.1431
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.312500	63.3518
Korea	Won	0.000811	0.001065	0.0514
China	Yuan**	0.098241	0.128941	6.2237
Argentina	Peso	0.245538	0.322269	15.5553
Brazil	Real	0.367538	0.482393	23.2841
Denmark	Kroner	0.134140	0.176059	8.4980
India	Rupee	0.017296	0.022701	1.0957
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.218092	0.286246	13.8165
Mexico	New Peso	0.069245	0.090884	4.3868
New Zealand	Dollar	0.537765	0.705816	34.0683
South Africa	Rand	0.108131	0.141922	6.8503
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023102	0.030321	1.4635

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY Time- Feb. 22, 2007

* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.

** Asian Time Closing Rate as of Feb. 15, 2007

Bangko Sentral readying new monetary tools

Coping with strong inflows of dollars

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS IS crafting new monetary tools that will enable it to cope with the strong influx of remittances from overseas workers and portfolio investments or "hot" money.

Top BSP officials said the central bank was studying new ways to strengthen its monetary tools as a preemptive measure against potential inflationary pressures that might be brought about by an excessive growth in liquidity.

"We can't just rely on our open market operations anymore," a monetary official said, noting that the BSP was thinking of entirely new instruments to better cope with the challenges posed by the rising foreign exchange inflows. The official, however, declined to divulge the instruments being considered.

Another monetary official said the BSP would like to study more ways. He, however, said it was uncertain whether it could pursue the same tack taken by the Chinese central bank, which recently started issuing debt instruments with a three-year maturity on a weekly basis to strengthen its ability to mop up liquidity.

Among the BSP's main monetary management tools at present are: The overnight borrowing or reverse repurchase (RRP) rate, reserve requirement or the funds that banks are required to set aside, and other short-term instruments such as special deposit accounts and reserve deposit accounts.

Another tool is the outright sale of domestic securities but this was an option not resorted to in the last few years as the BSP avoided competing with the Bureau of Treasury's treasury bonds.

Since last year, the BSP has intensified the use of peso-dollar swaps—or the simultaneous purchase and sale of currencies at different maturity dates—to defer the influx of more foreign money into the domestic financial system. It has also used its foreign reserves to settle foreign debts ahead of maturity.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. hinted that the central bank would introduce new monetary tools.

"When you talk about preemptive measures, you're really talking about the instruments that the central bank can use to address any threat to the inflation target and I think the main thing that we have to recognize here (with forex liberalization) is we want to adjust our rules to accommodate the requirements of a growing economy," Tetangco said.

Based on the BSP's estimates, Tetangco said there was no immediate threat to inflation coming from the liquidity side.

"Obviously, if the high level and high growth of liquidity continues, there may come a time that this would begin to exert upward pressure on prices but we don't see that yet. We are, however, continuously monitoring that," he said.

Based on a BSP report, domestic liquidity growth accelerated to 21.4 percent year-on-year in December from 18.5 percent in November.

Domestic liquidity or m3 is a measure of the supply of money in an economy. It includes money in circulation, demand deposits, money market funds and short-term repurchase agreements.

Group worried over delay of MRT expansion

A CIVIC ORGANIZATION HAS URGED THE government to immediately pursue plans for the extension of the light rail transit system along Edsa amid concerns that the project may be sidetracked due to the forthcoming mid-term elections.

The Edsa Para sa Masa earlier called on President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to expand and extend the Edsa MRT from North Triangle in Quezon City to Monumento in Caloocan City to sustain the efficiency of the system.

The group, however, expressed concern that the planned extension "might be placed in the backburner again due to the coming elections." The commuting public has been waiting for this extension for a long time now, it said.

The Edsa Para sa Masa also expressed concern that the planned extension "could be delayed by on-going debates on who should implement the extension plans."

"We are not interested on which government agency would do the project. All we want is for the project to be started soonest and for the system extension to assure us of the same convenient and efficient service currently provided by the Edsa MRT," the group added.

It said the "high quality service standards" provided the Edsa MRT should be maintained by implementing the extension and expansion of the system.

Data from the Department of Transportation show that travel from the current Station 1 to Station 13 of the system takes 30 minutes. The Edsa MRT uses 73 coaches to serve a maximum of 24,000 passengers per hour per direction along the 16.9 kilometer route from North Triangle to Taft Avenue in Pasay City.

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AUCTION STARTS AT EXACTLY 9:00 A.M.

METRO MANILA

ANTIPOLO, RIZAL

SPR_RZL320 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 248sqm (near Cypress Subd.)
Morisville Ext. VISTA VERDE
Min. Bid Price: P 738,000

SPR_RZL321 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 176sqm F.A. 36sqm
Diamond St. (Near Loreland)
PINES CITY ROYAL SUBD.
Min. Bid Price: P 587,000

CAINTA, RIZAL

SPR_RZL331 3-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 303sqm. F.A. 309.4sqm
Villena St. (Near Sta. Lucia)
VISTA VERDE EXEC. VILL.
Min. Bid Price: P 2,134,000

SPR_RZL332 RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,086sqm (Near Meralco)
BROOKSIDE HILLS SUBD. San Juan
Min. Bid Price: P 2,396,000

SPR_RZL333 RSDL LOT
L.A. 238sqm
VALLEY VIEW EXEC. SUBD.
Valley Golf (Near Golf Course)
Min. Bid Price. P 709,000

SPR_RZL335 RSDL LOT
BIRMINGHAM PLACE
Brookeside Hills (near Meralco)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
182sqm	P 482,000
166sqm	P 494,000

SPR_RZL336 RSDL LOT
L.A. 278sqm. (Near Filinvest Subd)
EASTVILLE SUBD., Filinvest East
Min. Bid Price: P 1,064,000

SPR_RZL337 2-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 200sqm. F.A. 384sqm
(near Sta. Lucia)
Chorinthia St. VISTA VERDE
Min. Bid Price: P 2,740,000

CALOOCAN

SPR_CAL361 HOUSE& LOT
L.A. 600sqm F.A. 230sqm
Antipolo St. cor. Pasig St.,
MAYPAJO (Near Ma. Auxeleadores Church)
Min Bid Price: P 3,570,000

SPR_CAL363 RSDL LOT
L.A. 3,401sqm
TIERRA NOVA ROYAL,
Bagumbong
(Near Ma. Theresa Avila School)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
58sqm	P 121,800.00
103sqm	P 216,300.00
182sqm	P 382,200.00
284sqm	P 595,400.00

SPR_CAL366 2-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 509sqm FA.880sqm
Glascon St. cor. Munich St.
VISTA VERDE (Near Vista Verde North)
Min Bid Price: P 5,354,000

SPR_CAL367 2-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 1,000sqm F.A. 279sqm
J. BAUTISTA Ave. Barrio Calsaran
Min Bid Price: P 11,900,000

SPR_CAL371 RSDL LOT
L.A. 240sqm
Guijo St. SILANGAN SUBD.
Deparo (Near Brgy. Hall)
Min Bid Price: P 572,000

SPR_CAL372 RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,279sqm
F. Llano St. DAMONG MALIIT
Novaliches (Near Ina ng Bayan Church)
Min Bid Price: P 2,175,000

SPR_CAL373 2-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 249sqm F.A. 320sqm
Golden Clarion St. (Near City Hall)
LILLES VILLE Subd. Ph2, Camarin
Min Bid Price: P 2,650,000

SPR_CAL374 RSDL VACANT LOT
VISTA VERDE NORTH Ph-3. Kaybiga

Lot Area	Min Bid Price
144sqm	P 392,000
156sqm	P 425,000
316sqm	P 860,000
329sqm	P 923,000
249sqm	P 2,550,000

SPR_CAL410 RSDL LOT
L.A. 197sqm
Munich St. (Near Vista Verde North)
VISTA VERDE EXEC VILL, Kaybiga
Min Bid Price: P 587,000

LAS PIÑAS

SPR_LSP413 RSDL LOT
L.A. 169sqm
QUIRINO Ave cor. C-5 Rd Ext
Pulang Lupa 1 (Near SM- Sucat)
Min Bid Price: P 26,151,000

SPR_LSP414 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 350sqm F.A. 247.55sqm
Tropical Ave. (Near Macro)
BF HOMES INTERNATIONAL
Min Bid Price: P3,618,000

SPR_LSP415 2-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 236sqm F.A. 175sqm
Rosal St. (Near SM Sucat)
GACHALIAN VILL. Ph 7-A
Min Bid Price: P 910,000

SPR_LSP416 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 192sqm
Rocio Garcia St. (Near Makro)
BF RESORT VILL. Pamplona
Min Bid Price: P1,280,000

SPR_LSP417 2-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 260sqm F.A. 250sqm
(Near SM Sucat)
Camia cor. Villanueva St.
GATCHALIAN SUBD. Ph-VII
Min Bid Price: P 1,726,000

SPR_LSP418 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 497sqm F.A. 385sqm
Lozada St., (Near SM Sucat)
GATCHALIAN SUBD, Manuyo
Min Bid Price: P3,044,000

SPR_LSP419 2DOOR APARTMENT
L.A. 582sqm F.A. 305 sqm.
Ines Manapol cor. Guada Sanchez
BF RESORT VILL. (Near Makro)
Min Bid Price: P5,343,000

SPR_LSP420 4STRY COMML BLDG
L.A. 136sqm F.A. 399.71sqm
Real St. (Alabang Zapote Rd)
Pamplona
Min Bid Price: P5,014,000

MAKATI

SPR_MKT421 OFFICE CONDO
F.A. 148sqm
VERNIDA I CONDO, Amorsolo St
Min Bid Price: P 5,661,000

SPR_MKT422 RSDL CONDO
F.A. 35.60sqm (near AMA College)
SOUTH STAR PLAZA,
South Super Hi-way
Min Bid Price: P 758,000

SPR_MKT431 2-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 240sqm F.A 352sqm
(Near Bancuin St)
Mayapis St. SAN ANTONIO VILL.
Min Bid Price: P 4,981,000

SPR_MKT428 RSDL CONDO w/ PRKG
F.A. 107sqm
(Near Makati Sport Complexs)
THE PEAK CONDO
Alfaro cor. Herrera Sts.
Min Bid Price: P 5,912,000

SPR_MKT429 OFFICE CONDO
BURGUNDY CONDO. Gil Puyat
(Near Cnspa & Makati Medical)

Floor Area	Min Bid Price
45.30sqm	P 3,193,000
66.30sqm	P 4,679,000

SPR_MKT433 RSDL CONDO
F.A. 233sqm w/PRKG
LPL MANOR
(Near Makati Sport Complexs)
116 Alfaro St. SALCEDO VILL.
Min Bid Price: P 12,280,000

SPR_MKT434 RSDL CONDO
PALACE OF MAKATI. P Burgos St.
(Near Makati Citadel)

Floor Area	Min Bid Price
32.60sqm	P 1,526,000
66sqm	P 3,087,000

SPR_MKT436 RSDL CONDO
F.A. 150sqm w/ PRKG
LPL MANOR (Near Makati Sport Complexs)
116 Alfaro St., SALCEDO VILL.
Min Bid Price: P 7,905,000

SPR_MKT437 RDSL/INDUST HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 295sqm F.A. 260sqm
Suez St. Sta. Cruz
(Near Ecoville Townhomes)
near METROPOLITAN AVE.
Min Bid Price: P 7,717,000

SPR_MKT439 RSDL CONDO
F.A. 30sqm.
T-TOWER CONDO (Near Bel Air)
P. Burgos cor. Calderon St.
Min Bid Price: P 969,000

MANILA

SPR_MNL442 RSDL CONDO
GOTESCO REGENCY TWIN TOWERS
Concepcion St. (Near SM Manila)

Floor Area	Min Bid Price
194.80sqm	P 6,624,000
196.58sqm	P 6,684,000
197.28sqm	P 6,708,000

SPR_MNL443 PENTHOUSE CONDO
GOTESCO REGENCY TWIN TOWERS
Concepcion St. (Near SM Manila)

Floor Area	Min Bid Price
369.18sqm	P 12,553,000
372.78sqm	P 12,675,000
373.38sqm	P 12,695,000

SPR_MNL457 3-STRY RSDL BLDG
L.A. 86sqm F.A. 259sqm (Near Sofis St)
DAGUPAN St. Ext., Tondo
Min Bid Price: P 1,372,000

MARIKINA

SPR_MRK465 VACANT LOT
L.A 420sqm (Near Blueridge Subd.)
Aguinaldo St., INDUSTRIAL VALLEY
Min Bid Price: P 3,927,000

SPR_MRK467 HOUSE & LOT
L.A 120sqm F.A 65sqm
LA JOTA VILLA 1 (Near Jollibee)
Gen. Ordonez St., Concepcion Uno
Min Bid Price: P 892,000

SPR_MRK468 VACANT LOT
L.A. 248sqm (Near China Bank)
J.P RIZAL St. San Roque
Min Bid Price: 2,108,000

SPR_MRK469 TOWN HOUSE
L.A. 420sqm F.A. 297sqm
Aguinaldo St. (Near blueridge subd.)
INDUSTRIAL VALLEY
Min Bid Price: P 4,705,000

MUNTINLUPA

SPR_MUN470 3-STRY HSE & LOT
W/ SWIMMING POOL
L.A. 602sqm. F.A. 447.80sqm
(Near Ayala Alabang Comml Area)
Toledo St. ALABANG HILLS SUBD.
Alabang
Min Bid Price: P 7,404,000

SPR_MUN471 HOUSE & LOT w/ BASEMENT
L.A. 1,221sqm F.A. 1,092sqm
(Near City Hall & Alabang Business)
Regent St. and Peninsula St.
PLEASANT VILLAGE
Min Bid Price: P 7,605,000

PARAÑAQUE

SPR_PRQ474 TOWN HOUSE
WESTMONT VILLAGE w/ PRKING
Dr. A. Santos Ave. (Near City Hall)

Floor Area	Min Bid Price
62.25sqm	P 1,408,000
116.75sqm	P 2,260,000

PASAY

SPR_PSY477 2RSDL BLDG
L.A. 674sqm F.A. 245sqm & 400sqm
P. ZAMORA St. (Near MRT Station)
Min Bid Price. P 8,413,000

PASIG

SPR_PSG478 OFFICE CONDO
ONE MAGNIFICENT MILE CONDO
San Miguel Ave. (Near Mega Mall & EDSA Shangrila Mall)

Floor Area	Min Bid Price
86.72sqm	P 3,686,000
108.60sqm	P 4,530,000

PILILIA, RIZAL

SPR_RZL346 FARM LAND
MOTHER'S FARM
Bagong Bayan. San Isidro

Lot Area	Min Bid Price
5,587sqm	P 1,898,000
5,834sqm	P 1,984,000
11,429sqm.	P 3,886,000

QUEZON CITY

SPR_QCL482 UNFINISHED BLDG
L.A. 1,643sqm (Near Broadway Centrum) AURORA BLVD. cor. Madison St.
Min Bid Price: P 48,880,000

SPR_QCB483 RSDL LOT
L.A. 178sqm
Riverdale St. (Near FEU Hosp.)
GREENVIEW EXEC VILL.
Min Bid Price: P 833,000

SPR_QCL484 RSDL CONDO
F.A. 38.80sqm
XAVIERVILLE ROYALE CONDO.
Loyola Hghts.
(Near Ateneo & Katipuna Ave)
Min Bid Price: P 1,320,000

SPR_QCL485 2-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 180sqm F.A. 326sqm
Ignacio Ave. (Near UP Diliman)
NORTH SUSANA EXEC VILL.
Old Balara
Min Bid Price: P 3,872,000

SPR_QCB487 RSDL LOT
L.A. 621sqm (Near EVER GOTESCO)
Victorino Salazar St.
Brgy. Holy Spirit, BF HOMES
Min Bid Price: P 4,751,000

SPR_QCB488 VACANT LOT
L.A 1,497sqm
(Near Villa Village) Quirino Hway
Brgy. Talipapa, NOVALICHES
Min Bid Price: P 19,087,000

SPR_QCB489 5-UNIT TOWNHSE
L.A 240sqm F.A 472.30sqm
Celosia St. (Near Sauyo Road)
DEL NACIA VILLE 4, Sauyo
Min Bid Price: P 2,567,000

SPR_QCB490 4STR COMML BLDG
(1st 3flr are for sale)
MINDANAO AVE, Brgy. Bago Balay
(Near Congressional Ave)

Floor Area	Min Bid Price
180.53sqm	P 6,700,000
236.84sqm	P 5,389,000
236.84sqm	P 6,295,000

SPR_QCL495 - RSDL CONDO
F.A. 45 sqm. (2 Units Available)
PRINCE GREGORY CONDO
12th Ave. Cubao
(Near ALI Mall, SM & Gateway)
Min Bid Price: P 1,722,000 each unit

SPR_QCB499 2-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 400sqm F.A 135.5sqm
Osmena St. (Near Gen. Luis)
T. S. CRUZ SUBD., Novaliches
Min Bid Price: P 1,305,000

SPR_QCL501 6STRY BLDG
L.A. 300sqm F.A 1,177.25sqm
SGT. CATOLOS STREET
Cubao (Near Magsaysay High School)
Min Bid Price: P 20,162,000

SPR_QCB503 6-STRY RSDL CONDO BLDG
w/ ALLEY PARKING
L.A. 2,205sqm F.A. 4,480sqm
HOSLA CONDOMINIUM I
Tomas Morato (Near E. Rodriguez)
Min Bid Price. P 82,514,000

SPR_QCL504 2-STRY HSE & LOT
W/ 4 DILAPIDATED APRTMNT UNITS
L.A. 300sqm F.A. 214sqm
MIAMI St., Cubao
(Near Gateway Mall)
Min Bid Price: P 8,338,000

QCB510 RSDL CONDO UNIT
WEST MANSION HOTEL,
Zamboanga St.
(Near Visayas Ave & Quezon Ave)

Floor Area	Min Bid Price
12.50sqm	P 170,000 (parking)
37.76sqm	P 1,284,000
55.97sqm	P 2,141,000

SPR_QCB517 2-STRY HSE & LOT
w/ ROOFDECK
L.A. 240sqm F.A. 216.5sqm
Gris St. (Near SM Fairview)
VILLA VERDE HOMES
Min Bid Price: P 2,363,000

SPR_QCL524 RSDL CONDO
F.A. 80sqm
UNION SQUARE ONE CONDO
15th Ave. (Near SM & ALI Mall)
Min Bid Price: P 2,040,000

SPR_QCB525 2-STRY OLD HSE
L.A. 450sqm F.A. 225sqm
(Near Sienna College)
Wayan St., MASAMBONG
Min Bid Price: P 6,057,000

SPR_QCL258 RSDL LOT
Patonan CAPITOL DISTRICT

Lot Area	Min Bid Price
5,000sqm	P 3,323,000
5,586sqm	P 3,712,000
5,577sqm	P 3,706,000
5,600sqm	P 3,721,000

SPR_QCL533 2-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 489sqm F.A. 221sqm
WEST POINT ST., Cubao
(Near SM)
Min Bid Price: P 7,113,000

SPR_QCL534 3-STRY UNFINISHED HOUSE & LOT W/ BUNGALOW
L.A. 460sqm F.A. 184sqm
Riverdale St. SAINT IGNATIUS VILLAGE
Min Bid Price: P 6,585,000

TAGUIG

SPR_TAG537 RSDL LOT
L.A 3,999sqm (Near City Hall)
JONES EXT., Pawang, Wawa
Min Bid Price: P 3,044,000

SPR_TAG538 RSDL LOT
L.A. 240sqm
(Near Fisher Valley Collage)
DMCI Nightangale Bend
BAY BREEZE, Wawa
Min Bid Price: P 612,000

TAYTAY, RIZAL

SPR_RZL339 RSDL LOT
L.A. 248sqm. (Near Home Sweet Home Grocery)
Diamond St. PALMERA HOMES II
Min. Bid Price: P 572,000

SPR_RZL340 HSE & LOT w/ WHSE
L.A. 454sqm.
(Near Coca-cola Plant)
Macopa St. DIVIDEND HOMES
Min. Bid Price: P 1,314,000

VALENZUELA

SPR_VAL540 4 RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,277.50sqm
M. HERNANDEZ ST.
Mabolo (Near Sapang San Roque)
Min Bid Price: P 11,890,000

SPR_VAL545 WAREHOUSE
L.A. 1,234sqm F.A. 1,340sqm
(Near Regina Cycle Center)
KOWLOON COMPD.
Bo. Ugong, Mapulang Lupa
Min Bid Price: P 6,428,000

LUZON

BAGUIO
Text 09185328111

SPR_BAG001 RSDL CONDO
FA.177.16sqm. (Near Burnham Park)
BAGUIO CLASSICS CONDO
Green Valley Subdivision
Min. Bid Price: P 3,765,000

BATAAN

SPR_BTN072 UNFINISHED SUBD (Peninsula School)
L.A. 72.684sqm.
Bo. Alangan Roman Super Hway
Limay (Mts Haveland)
Min. Bid Price: P 27,671,000

BULACAN
Text 09273333733

SPR_BUL076 2 RSDL LOT
L.A. 689sqm (Near Balagtas Municipal Hall)
BALAGTAS, Bulacan
Min Bid Price: P 1,582,000

SPR_BUL080 RESORT W/ COTAGE & FISH POND
L.A. 33,337sqm. FA 2,500sqm
VILLA EVANGELISTA BAGUMBAYAN
Bulacan (Near Bulacan Municipal Hall)
Min. Bid Price. P 35,845,000

SPR_BUL081 RSDL LOTS
Brgy. Malhacan, MEYCAUYAN
(Near Meycauayan Exit-NLEX)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
223sqm	P 474,000
459sqm	P 997,000
500sqm	P 255,000
1,139sqm	P 2,421,00

BATANGAS
Text 09175443063

SPR_BAT218 RSDL VACANT LOT
L.A.171sqm
(Near SM Batangas City)
VERGARA ST., Batangas City
Min. Bid Price: P 509,000

SPR_BAT655 LOFTY WRHOUSE
L.A. 846sqm
(Near Padre Garcia Market)
Brgy. Pansol, PADRE GARCIA
Min. Bid Price: P 1,910,000

SPR_BAT219 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 128.5sqm. FA 90sqm
(Near Basilica Immaculada Church)
Int. Caido St., POBLACION,
Batangas City
Min. Bid Price: P 949,000

SPR_BAT222 AGRILOT
LA 4.667sqm
(Near SM Lipa and Robinson)
BRGY. BALINTAWAK, Lipa City
Min. Bid Price: P 7,934,000

SPR_BAT223 RSDL LOT
MASAGANA SUBD.,
Tambo Lipa City
(Near La Salle & Robinson)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
195sqm	P 498,000
842sqm	P 1,432,000

(2 lots available)

CAVITE
Text 09189048230

SPR_CVT258 RSDL LOT
LA 1,198sqm (Golf Resort Village)
SOUTHWOODS, Kabilang Baybay, Carmona
Min. Bid Price: P 8,656,000

SPR_CVT260 RSDL LOT
L.A. 21,191sqm
(Near SM & Robinson- Dasma)
CITIVIEW FARMS Paliparan, Dasma
Min. Bid Price: P 7,344,000

SPR_CVT261 RSDL LOT
L.A 657sqm
THE ORCHARD SUBD.
Salitran, Dasmariñas
Min. Bid Price: P 2,960,000

SPR_CVT262HOUSE & LOT
LA 98sqm. FA 67.2sqm.
TANGUILE WOODSTATE VILL.
Dasmariñas
(near Dasma Town Proper)
Min. Bid Price: P 524,000

SPR_CVT264 TOWN HOUSE
L.A. 126sqm. FA. 163sqm.
(Near Golf & Country Club Village)
MANILA ORCHARD TOWNHOMES
Salitran, Dasmarinas
Min. Bid Price; P 1,701,000

SPR_CVT272 HOUSE & LOT
LA 198sqm. FA.111.9sqm.
(Near Robinson Dasma)
San Juan St. Gen. Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 1,093,000

SPR_CVT273 RSDL LOT
PALLAS ATHES EXEC.
Bgy. Anabu, Imus
(Near Dasma Town Proper)

Lot Area	Min Bid Price
150sqm	P 383,000
300sqm	P 765,000
647sqm	P 1,650,000

SPR_CVT304 RSDL LOT
MIRA HILLS SUBD.
Puerto Azul, Ternate

Lot Area	Min Bid Price
1,178sqm	P 5,007,000
1,200sqm	P 5,100,000
1,332sqm	P 5,661,000
1,457sqm	P 6,193,000

LAGUNA
Text 09178054175

SPR_LGN311 RSDL/COMML LOT
L.A. 409sqm (Beside San Jose Polymedic).
Mayapa, CALAMBA
Min. Bid Price: P 1,739,000

SPR_LGN314 COMML LOT w/ WRHS
L.A. 300sqm. FA 500sqm.
Yakal St., DONA EUSEBIA SUBD.
Concepcion, San Pablo City
Min. Bid Price: P 4,125,000

LAOAG, ILOCOS

SPR_ILN005 RSDL LOT
LA 47,635sqm
BO MANG-NGATO, Cabungan North
Min. Bid Price: P 11,114,000

NUEVA ECIJA
Text 09156002733

SPR_NE094 RSDL LOT w/ WRHSE
L.A. 240sqm. F.A. 180sqm
KAPITAN PEPE SUBD.
Cabanatuan (Near Melencio Ext.)
Min Bid Price P 812,000

SPR_NE095 RSDL LOT
L.A. 240sqm.
KAPITAN PEPE SUBD.
Cabanatuan (Near Melencio Ext)
Min. Bid Price: P 612,000

SPR_NE098 2-STRY HSE & LOT
W/ INDSTRIAL WAREHOUSE
L.A. 1,000sqm. F.A. 443sqm.
MAHARLIKA HIGHWAY
Cabanatuan (Beside SM)
Min. Bid Price: P 9,634,000

SPR_NE101 COMML LOT
L.A. 305sqm (near Antonio's Mall)
Brgy. Bernardo, CABANATUAN CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 2,074,000

SPR_NE103 2-RSDL VACANT LOTS
L.A. 400 sqm. (Near Youngs Clinic)
Bo. Valdefuente, CABANATUAN CITY
Min. Bid Price P 1,292,000

SPR_NE122 RSDL LOT
L.A. 184sqm (Within Old Muñoz)
Poblacion, Muñoz
Min. Bid Price: P 1,408,000

SPR_NE123 RSDL LOT
Bo. Malgaya, Muñoz
(Near Phil. Rice)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
12,964sqm	P 1,102,000
14,768sqm	P 1,256,000
30,527sqm	P 2,595,000

SPR_NE126 AGRI LOT
L.A. 62,029sqm. (Near Phil. Rice)
Bantug, Muñoz
Min. Bid Price: P 2,109,000

SPR_NE132 2-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 500sqm. F.A.145.10sqm
CARDENAS ST. (Near Fire Station)
Poblacion, San Jose
Min. Bid Price: P 3,678,000

SPR_NE133 RSDL LOT
L.A. 941sqm (Near Health Center)
EUGENIO ST., Poblacion, San Jose
Min. Bid Price: P 3,774,000

SPR_NE134 2-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 150sqm. F.A. 125sqm
PANAHON ST. (Within City Proper)
Calaocan, San Jose
Min. Bid Price: P 757,000

SPR_NE138 4-STRY COMML BLDG
L.A. 178sqm. F.A. 580sqm
ELSA TOWER (Within City Proper)
Poblacion, San Jose
Min. Bid Price: P 6,477,000

SPR_NE149 - RSDL LOT
MAHARLIKA Rd.
Bagong Silang, Talavera
(Within City Proper)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
232sqm	P 33,000
416sqm	P 59,000
9,061sqm	P 1,260,000
9,980sqm	P 1,394,000
9,981sqm	P 1,394,000

SPR_NE155 RSDL LOT
LA 4,319sqm (Near Provincial Rd)
Bo. of San Pascual, TALAVERA
Min. Bid Price: P 3,304,000

PAMPANGA

SPR_PAM165 RSDL LOT
LA 32,686sqm (Front of SG Farm)
San Isidro Rd. Bo. San Pedro
SAN SIMON
Min. Bid Price: P 6,947,000

SPR_PAM170 1STRY COMML BLDG
LA 4,280sqm. FA 2,449sqm
Bo. Dalaquitan
SAN MATIAS, Sto. Tomas
Min. Bid Price: P 13,515,000

PANGASINAN
Text 09153438252

SPR_PSN007 VACANT LOT
DON JUAN COMP. San Felipe Sur
Binalonan (Near Petron)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
100sqm	P 43,000
107sqm	P 46,000
139sqm	P 148,000
141sqm	P 150,000
4,688sqm	P 992,000

SPR_PSN052 RSDL LOT
BRGY. TAPUAC DISTRICT
Dagupan City (Near LNC Collage)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
168sqm	P 288,000 (2 lots avail.)
401sqm	P 682,000

SPR_PSN056 APRTMENT UNITS
Alley. BRGY. TAPUAC, Dagupan

Lot Area	Floor Area	Min. Bid Price
60sqm	81.63sqm	P 820,000
61sqm	82.72sqm	P 833,000
68sqm	92.21sqm	P 929,000

SPR_PSN081 RSDL LOT
LA 32,906sqm.
(Near Mangatarem Elem Schl)
Bo. Bueno, MANGATAREM
Min. Bid Price: P 979,000

SPR_PSN062 RSDL LOT
L.A. 3,057sqm.
(Near Barangay Hall)
Bo. Torres, MAPANDAN
Min. Bid Price: P 520,000

SPR_PSN065 RSDL LOT
LA 3,686sqm. (Near Tukao Bridge)
F. Vilanueva, STA. BARBARA
Min. Bid Price: P 1,950,000

SPR_PSN067 RSDL LOT
L.A. 300sqm (5 Lots Available)
DARAMUNGAN St
Brgy. Pinmaludpud, URDANETA
Min. Bid Price 255,000 EACH

QUEZON PROVINCE
Text 09209222495

SPR_QP352 SUBDIVISION LOTS
L.A. 12,031sqm. (Near Town Proper)
National Hi-way, Masin Sur
CANDELARIA
Min. Bid Price: P 19,188,000

SPR_QP354 RSDL LOT
PUERTO DEL MAR SUBD
Ilayang Sabang, Lucena
(Near DFA Office)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
204sqm	P 434,000
221sqm	P 470,000
2000sqm	P 590,000
5000sqm	P 850,000

SPR_QP358 2-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 232sqm. F.A. 187.8sqm
BETTER LIVING SUBD.
Lucena City (Near DFA Office)
Min. Bid Price P 1,537,000

TARLAC
Text 09163086112

SPR_TAR171 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 389sqm. FA 155sqm
Jasmin St., (Near Grandmas Hotel)
BLOSSOMVILLE SUBD
Matatalaib
Min. Bid Price: P 1,278,000

SPR_TAR184 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 300sqm. F.A.186sqm
SUNRISE SUBD
Maliwalo (Near Radio Maria)
Min. Bid Price. P 1,015,000

SPR_TAR185 RSDL LOT
JOEMAC SUBD. San Vicente
(Near Camp Macabulos)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
990sqm	P 842,000
1,143sqm	P 972,000
1,028sqm	P 1,049,000

SPR_TAR201 RSDL LOT
SAN JUAN DE MATA and Sto. Niño
(Near Romulo Highway)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
120sqm	P 189,000
123sqm	P 194,000
150sqm	P 236,000
304sqm	P 517,000

SPR_TAR217 RSDL LOT
L.A. 373sqm
(Beside Banco San Juan)
M. H. Del Pilar St., Bo. STO. CRISTO
Min. Bid Price: P 4,756,000

TAGAYTAY
Text 09175443063

SPR_BAT221 RAWLAND
LA. 15,000sqm (NEAR WOODLAND)
Brgy. Birinayan(Laurel)
TAGAYTAY RIDGE
Min. Bid Price: P 15,173,000

SPR_TGY226 RSDL LOT
RODEO HILLS SUBD
Brgy. Matabac Alfonso
(Near Spendido)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
375sqm	P 335,000
375sqm	P 447,000
431sqm	P 550,000
1,298sqm	P 1,104,000

SPR_TGY278 RSDL LOT
L.A. 8,059sqm (Overlooking Taal)
LIGAYA DRIVE Brgy. Sungay
Min. Bid Price. P 17,126,000

SPR_TGY279 RSDL LOT
TAGAYTAY WOODSBORROUGH
(Near Tagaytay Soto Grande)
Brgy. Guinhawa

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
180sqm	P 459,000
200sqm	P 510,000
260sqm	P 663,000
312sqm	P 796,000

VISAYAS

ILOILO CITY
Text 09206186282

SPR_ILO550 RSDL LOT
L.A 68,318sqm
Tagaing, STA. BARBARA
Min Bid Price: P 1,743,000

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL
Text 09214488869

SPR_NO557 RSDL LOT
L.A. 71,964sqm
BRGY LOPEZ JAENA, Sagay City
Min Bid Price: 728,000

CEBU CITY
Text 09266250957

SPR_CEB558VACANT LOT
L.A. 934 sqm
(Near Gaisano Country Mall)
Paseo Monano, Ph3,
MA. LUISA ESTATE SUBD.
Min Bid Price: P 2,392,000

MINDANAO

BUTUAN CITY
Text 09283336161

SPR_BUT562 RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,637sqm
(Near St. Peter Memorial Chapel)
C.M Recto Langihan
Min Bid Price: P 1,431,000

COTABATO CITY
Text 09198653012

SPR_COT580 RSDL LOT
L.A. 471sqm
SINSUAT, Cotabato City
Min Bid Price: P 781,000

DAVAO
Text 09219703112

SPR_DAV606 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 1,828sqm F.A. 3,800sqm
San Miguel, MATINA
Min Bid Price: P 14,444,000

SPR_DAV610 RSDL LOT
L.A. 66,550sqm
BRGY. TIBUNGCO
Min Bid Price: P 3,213,000

GENERAL SANTOS CITY
Text 09267666746

SPR_GSC616 RSDL LOT
L.A 37,985sqm
MENESES RD. Brgy. Lagao.
Min Bid Price: P 5,357,000

SPR_GSC317 VACANT LOT
L.A. 11,424sqm
DIVERSION RD. Bo. of Apopong
Min Bid Price: P 1,651,000

ZAMBOANGA
09209067759

SPR_ZAM628 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 645sqm F.A. 370sqm(Near Downtown)
Ilang -ilang St. VILLA STA. MARIA
Min Bid Price: P 2,143,000

SPR_ZAM631 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 1000sqm F.A. 564.91sqm
(Near Manang Perry's)
Jesus Cobato Drive, Canelar
Min Bid Price: P 3,433,000

SPR_ZAM633 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 400sqm F.A. 255.25sqm
(Near DOLE Office)
Dona Pura Drive Tetuan
Min Bid Price: P 2,420,000

SPR_ZAM634 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 705sqm F.A. 341.42sqm
(Near Tetuan Central School)
ST. IGNATIUS SUBD, Tetuan
Min Bid Price: P 1,332,000

SPR_ZAM638 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 352sqm F.A.148sqm (Near BCC Complex)
Monserat Dr. San Jose Road
Min Bid Price: P 789,000

SPR_ZAM639 RSDL LOT
L.A. 724sqm (Near Marian Garden Orchid Hotel)
GOVERNOR'S CAMINS RD.
Brgy. Canelar
Min Bid Price: P 5,539,000

SPR_ZAM640 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 1,028sqm F.A. 607sqm
MAESTRAS VICENTA St.
Sta. Maria (Near Kimlyn's Bakeshop)
Min Bid Price: P 6,189,000

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RP-Australia trade up 10.7% to ₱66.5B in '06

Telecommunications equipment top Philippine export

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE VALUE OF GOODS TRADED between the Philippines and Australia rose 10.7 percent in 2006 to A$1.75 billion or about P66.5 billion, and Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade sees "significant potential for (further growth)."

DFAT data showed that Australia's top imports from the Philippines included telecommunications equipment, integrated circuits and computers.

On the other hand, Australia's major shipments to the Philippines were copper ore and copper, milk and cream and medicine, including veterinary products.

Also, the DFAT said another government agency, Biosecurity Australia, a part of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, was conducting an import risk analysis for Philippine bananas, the result of which would reportedly come out within the year.

A favorable report would open the Australian market to Philippine bananas.

On the other hand, Commercial shipments of another major Philippine export, pineapples, have begun following completion of an IRA for Philippine pineapples.

As for trade in services, DFAT said transactions reached A$187 million (about P7.1 billion) in exports to the Philippines and $207 million (about P7.9 billion) in imports from here.

Australia exports to the Philippines personal travel services and education-related travel while it imports personal and business travel services.

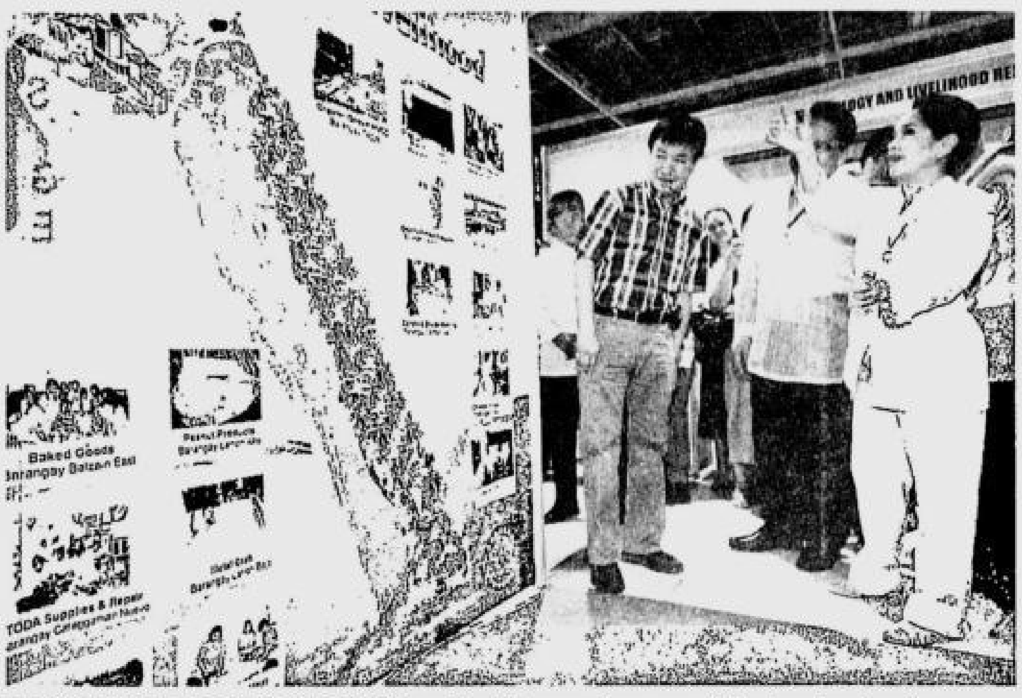
Further, DFAT said the government of Australia's Northern Territory and of the Philippines hoped to mine substantial trade opportunities in tourism, fisheries, transport and agribusiness through the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asean Growth Area or BIMP-Eaga, in which Northern Territory has an observer status.

DFAT said Australian firms were looking at business opportunities in agribusiness considering their reputation for being "clean and green."

Areas with potential include the supply of live cattle, sugar, fruit, vegetables, grains and cotton as well as of technology for irrigation, post-harvest facilities and seed production.

As for the mining sector, DFAT said there were already around a dozen Australian companies with interests in the Philippines, most of which were at the exploration and development stage.

This makes Australia one of the major foreign investors in the Philippines' mining sector, the agency said.



LIVELY LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMS. President Arroyo views one of the booths showing different forms of livelihood during the launch of the "Perlas ng Pangkabuhayang Pinoy." The trade fair is part of the anniversary celebrations of the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center. LYN RILLON

Philippines has viable market for mobile TV service, study says

By Riza T. Olchondra

MOBILE TV BROADCASTING IS commercially attractive with about 39 million potential subscribers in the Philippines alone, according to a market study by HT Telesis Inc.

HT Telesis is registered with the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) as a value-added service provider.

In a submission to the regulator, HT Telesis company chair and CEO Hector Thomas Navasero said his company recently conducted a market study covering Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore and Taiwan.

The results showed that there were 240 million people from these markets that could subscribe to a service that will allow them to receive broadcast feeds on their mobile phones.

Out of the total, 39 million potential subscribers were in the Philippines.

HT Telesis is targeting those markets for redistributed multimedia broadcasts.

The company currently provides e-mail, file transfer, remote log-in, web page hosting and facsimile services, but is seeking NTC permission to build, install and operate direct satellite transmission and redistribute multimedia broadcasting services.

The company's study showed that start-up costs for the new services may reach $293,000 in the first year of operations.

However, potential first-year revenues from basic mobile TV subscriptions alone could reach more than $2 million.

Aside from basic mobile TV subscriptions, HT Telesis wants to offer electronic shopping, pay per view, and related services.

The company said pay-per-view revenues could reach $86,000 while programming could bring in $249,000.

Revenues from "a la carte" services could go up to $392,000 in the first year, while audio services could reach $265,000.

"The financial projections were based on canvasses for the equipment to be used, the estimated number of subscribers, the expenses normally found in the industry and such other assumptions based on generally accepted accounting principles," Navasero said.

Teves wants ICC reactivated

FINANCE SECRETARY MARGARITO TEVES is seeking to restore the authority of the inter-agency Investment Coordination Committee (ICC) to evaluate major infrastructure projects and make its recommendations within a deadline.

Teves, who chairs the ICC as Finance Secretary, said the recent policy to bypass the agency when it comes to project approvals "may have happened because of the perceived or real delay" in evaluating priority infrastructure projects.

Since the policy meant that project proponents could now go straight to the operating agencies to lobby for their projects, the World Bank, which co-chairs the Philippine Development Forum, and the rest of the global donor community had raised their concerns on the lack of check and balance.

"There's a concern from the World Bank, so we have to check on the possibility of again allowing ICC to go through [project evaluation] while ensuring that there is a timeline associated with the evaluation of the proposal," Teves said.

The ICC is composed of the Finance secretary as chair; the director-general of the National Economic and Development Authority as co-chair and executive secretary, and the secretaries of agriculture, trade and industry, energy, budget and management and Bangko Sentral governor as members.

Under Executive Order 230, the ICC is mandated to evaluate the fiscal, monetary and balance of payments implications of major national projects and recommend to the President a domestic and foreign borrowing program. *Doris C. Dumlao*

City offers property to developers

BAGUIO CITY—THE CITY GOVERNMENT will offer some of its real estate assets to developers this year in a bid to cash in on its nonperforming assets by 2008.

These assets include a view deck on Kennon Road, a hot spring resort near the city government-owned power plant, and a property on a hilltop where an abandoned hotel stands.

Interest in these facilities has compelled the city government to prepare the terms of reference so that the assets can be auctioned off after the May elections, said city administrator Peter Fianza Jr.

The council is also discussing proposals to increase the value of Baguio's real estate by 30 percent to improve revenues.

Councilor Galo Weygan said the city currently bases its real estate taxes on seven-year-old land values.

Fianza said the hilltop where the abandoned Diplomat Hotel stands is one of the the city's bigger assets.

The hotel was sequestered by the government in the 1980s and was turned over to the city government in 2002, along with the hilltop, by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The city government is also endorsing a feasibility study, conducted by the general services office (GSO), to convert the "Lion's head" monument and view deck on Kennon Road into a commercial park.

Romeo Concio, GSO chief, said the area was suited for cafes and a small hiking path because tourists often stop there to view the winding stretches of the century-old Kennon Road.

The only asset that has been in continuous operation is the city-owned resort in Asin hot springs in Tuba, Benguet. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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Viga Angadanhan, Isabela
Honda Cars Isabela

Ms. Geraldine V. Gonzales
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October Treats Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3446 Series of 2006
November "Smile" – Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4911 Series of 2006
December Christmas Drive-Away – Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4814 Series of 2006

Cordillera, Mindanao farmers move toward forging alliance

By Delmar Cariño
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—VEGETABLE INdustry leaders in the Cordillera and Mindanao believed that combining their production and marketing strategies would better prepare the vegetable industry for globalization.

They said well organized farmers' groups in both regions could come up with a national vegetable database that could analyze each region's comparative advantage in vegetable production.

The leaders, who recently attended a stakeholders' consultation at the Department of Agriculture Training Institute at Benguet State University here, said a north-south farmers' cooperation was necessary to the industry's survival.

They said they would discuss the formation of a national network for farmers at the 5th National Vegetable Congress in Tagaytay City scheduled next month.

The consultation here acknowledged Benguet's status as the country's major producer of highland vegetables, like potatoes, carrots and cabbage.

But Mindanao's farmers were more organized, said Roger Gualberto, president of the Vegetable Industry Council of Southern Mindanao Inc.

Right now, the region's farmers have five groups helping them look for markets for their harvests, he said.

He said the groups were the Caraga Vegetable Development Council, Central Mindanao Vegetable Group, Western Mindanao Farmers Association, Normin Veggies Inc. and the Vegetable Industry Council of Southern Mindanao.

Joan Uy, Normin Veggies vice president for marketing, said Cordillera and Mindanao farmers' groups could work together to determine the consumption levels of vegetables.

The groups could also find out the production volumes of highland vegetables commonly and exclusively produced in each region.

"This would avoid competition and instead encourage crop programming and a well organized production schedule," she said.

Edwin Andrew, president of the Central Chamber of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Industries of Northern Mindanao, said there was also a pressing need to know the amount of vegetables eaten by Filipinos in a year.

The chamber is the umbrella organization of 27 industry groups in northern Mindanao.

DBP set to lend ₱37.5B

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE STATE-OWNED DEVELOPMENT BANK of the Philippines plans to disburse P37.5 billion in new development loans this year, with funds mainly coming from Japan Bank for International Cooperation's official development assistance.

In a briefing last week, DBP president Reynaldo David said the planned disbursement would bring to about P181.5 billion the amount of ODA funds sourced by the bank from bilateral and multilateral donors since 1989.

David said of the planned disbursements this year, JBIC would contribute P36 billion, which would be channeled to priority projects in infrastructure and logistics (P16 billion); environmental development (P10 billion), and industry support (P10 billion).

The remaining P1.5 billion will be provided by German lender KfW, which will be used to build new hospitals and other health-related projects.

As of end-December 2006, the bank has tapped P144.1 billion worth of ODAs to fund its projects, 90 percent of which came from JBIC and the World Bank.

The ODAs used by the bank funded various priority programs, mainly industrial projects (P79 billion); micro, small and medium enterprises (P40 billion); infrastructure and logistics sector through its Sustainable Logistics Development Program (P11 billion); environment initiatives; and social services (P484 million).

"We still have funds today and the prospect for 2007 is (to release) about P37.5 billion," David said.

With the bank posting a record P3.73 billion in net profit last year, up by 16 percent from 2005, David said the bank was in a better position to support various government programs, particularly its infrastructure spending.

DBP chair Patricia Sto. Tomas said: "We are accelerating development lending so that in the end, 90 percent of the money that goes out supports poverty reduction, expansion of employment and access of underserved opportunities for more people."

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IN A PREVIOUS ISSUE, WE featured the Vertu phone, a cellphone we figured for the most expensive available. And it is, in a still-accessible consumer if-I-had-lotsa-disposable-income-I-might-be-able-to-buy-it sort of way. But the truly luxurious, highest-strata, ultra-ostentatious phone that God Himself might own (if He wanted one) would be much like this.

M.I.S.N.O. presents the Goldvish Limited Edition Cellphone, certified by the Guinness World Records people as the most expensive and most exclusive worldwide.

Available only on special request, it is limited to 100 pieces available worldwide. There are two lines of limited pieces, the Illusion and the Plato. A typical unit costs US$30,000 or P1.5 million.

But at the Millionaire's Fair in Cannes last August, they sold a diamond-encrusted version for US$1.2 million or P60 million.

We know the title of this section is Money Is No Object, but in this case, we're stretching the boundaries a bit too much. For anyone, we think P60 million is a very big object, if it's just for a cellphone. And we're not even quite sure if it has 3G. Then again who cares about technology when it's as beautiful as this?

If you had one of these, you'd be a big hit at the coffee shop, we're sure. Uh, can we pry off a stone off the back so we can buy ourselves a Vista-ready laptop?

Adel Gabot

BlackBerry
12:21

NEW LOOK, new features to win mobile users' hearts

BlackBerry Pearl launched in RP

GLOBESOLUTIONS, THE WIRELESS BUSINESS group of Globe Telecom and Innove Communications, and BlackBerry® wireless solution provider Research In Motion (RIM) have launched the small, stylish and feature-rich BlackBerry® Pearl™ in the Philippines.

The BlackBerry Pearl combines the industry-leading user experience that BlackBerry customers worldwide value with new handset features including a digital camera, multimedia capabilities and an expandable memory slot.

"We are pleased to expand our relationship with Globe by bringing the BlackBerry Pearl to mobile customers in the Philippines," said RIM vice president Norm Lo.

The unit measures just 4.2" x 1.97" x .57" and weighs only 3.1 ounces. It is a quad-band GSM/GPRS and EDGE-enabled mobile handset. It comes with a Qwerty keyboard for quick and easy typing and dialing, supports polyphonic, mp3 and Midi ring tones, and has a large, ultra-bright, high resolution (240 x 260) display.

The BlackBerry Pearl includes a responsive trackball that makes vertical and lateral scrolling fast and easy. Dedicated "menu" and "escape" keys on either side of the trackball, along with context sensitive menus, make navigation instinctive, smooth, and true to the famous user experience of the BlackBerry solution.

It also features a media player and stereo headset, a 64MB flash memory built-in and comes with a 1.3 megapixel camera with built-in flash and 5x digital zoom.

GlobeSolutions enables individuals to stay connected on the go through BlackBerry® Internet Service. With this, users can send and receive e-mails, open attachments and browse the Web.

For corporate customers, BlackBerry® Enterprise Server software tightly integrates with Microsoft® Exchange, IBM Lotus® Domino® and Novell® GroupWise® and works with existing enterprise systems to enable secure, push-based wireless access to e-mail and other corporate data.

MOBILE TICKLES YOUR LOVEBONE THIS FEBRUARY
Mobile Philippines' February issue is out now with the lovely Iya Villania on the cover! Mobile is the only magazine specializing in personal electronic devices from phones to music players to laptops. For grab and go tech news, you can visit us at www.m-ph.com. Grab a copy now from newsstands for just P100!

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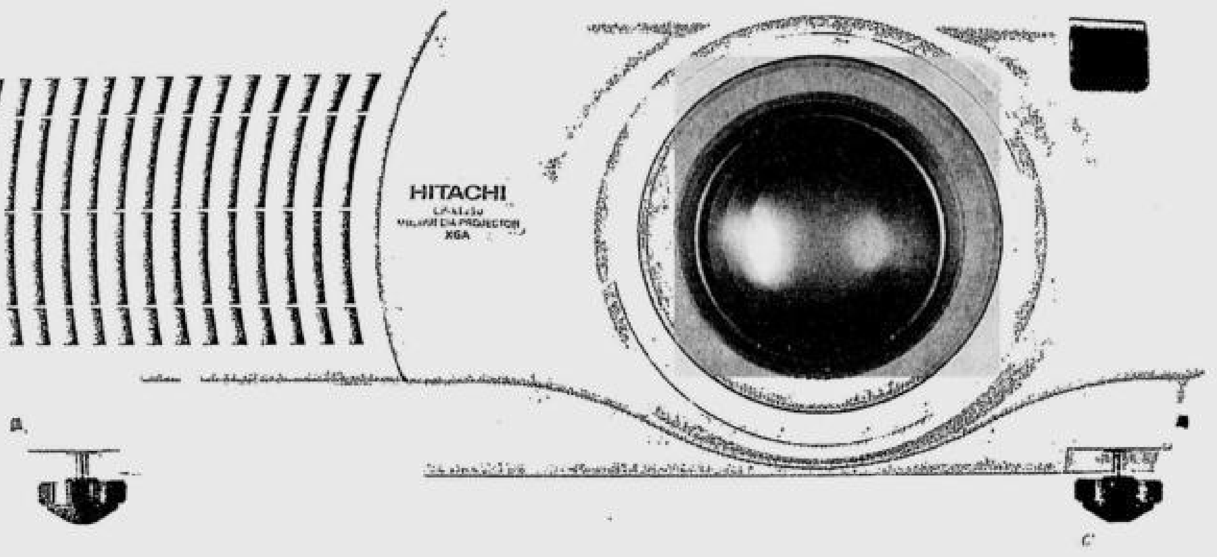

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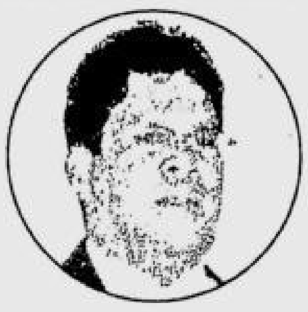
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PHILAM PLANS

PHILAM PLANS CITED NO.1 AGAIN

Philam Plans Inc., the leader in providing pension, education and life plans in the country, continues to be the most trusted in its industry today, based on current standings from the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

In its latest Sales Report, the SEC cited Philam Plans as the overall leader in the entire industry for the period of January to November 2006, with Total Sales of over 3.21 Billion Pesos and an industry market share of over 18%.The same report also showed that Philam Plans led the whole industry the entire month of November 2006, generating over 477 Million Pesos in Total Sales and over 28% total industry market share. Also on the same month, Philam Plans reached the number one spot in the Pension Plans Category with Total Sales of over 2.49% Billion Pesos and a market share of 22%.

"We continue to be very pleased with our overall results and with how our Company's unified efforts have brought these about, despite a very challenging and difficult year for the entire industry in 2006," said Philam Plans President and CEO Jack I. Howell. "We are confident that this trend is a sign of better things to come as we constantly find new ways to serve the financial needs of the Filipino family."

The previous SEC Report also reflected favorable data on Philam Plans' overall industry standing for the period of January to October 2006, where the Company led all other pre-need players with Total Sales of over 2.74 Billion Pesos and a market share of over 17%. Since the middle of 2006, Philam Plans has directed its strategic steps to boost the company's financial capabilities to continue to be the leader in its business for all categories.

Philam Plans Inc. holds a growing trust fund of 27.7 Billion Pesos, the majority of which are secured in cash or near-cash equivalent such as government securities.Its capitalization stands at 700 Million Pesos in paid-up capital, which is seven times larger than the minimum SEC requirement. The company currently has over 500,000 plans in force.

Philam Plans is a wholly subsidiary of the Philippine American Life and General Insurance Company (Philamlife), the country's largest and most diversified insurance company and a member company of the American International Group,Inc. (AIG), the leading international insurance and financial services organization with operations in more than 130 countries and jurisdictions.

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Neuroendoscopy makes child neurosurgery more effective

ENDOSCOPES, COMPUTERS AND image guidance devices have made pediatric neurosurgery safer and more effective, according to a noted Filipino neurosurgeon.

"Neuroendoscopy remains one of the most effective and safe approaches in the surgical treatment of various brain and nerve disorders affecting children," said Dr. Manuel M. Mariano, director, St. Luke's International Institute for Neurosciences.

MARIANO

Mariano was one of the main speakers at the 9th Asian and Oceanian Congress of Child Neurology held Jan. 24 to 27 at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu City. Pediatric neurologists from more than 20 countries in the Austral-Asian region attended the four-day biennial meeting.

An endoscope is a long, flexible lighted optical instrument introduced into the brain through tiny openings on the skull. Endoscopes allow neurosurgeons to visualize areas deep inside the skull and manipulate tiny surgical instruments to cut, grasp and sample tissue from hard-to-reach areas. On the other hand, image guidance devices use computers and special scans, such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), to help guide neurosurgeons with pinpoint precision towards the target area of the brain, thereby enhancing patient safety.

Treatment for hydrocephalus

Neuroendoscopy is especially helpful in the treatment of hydrocephalus or "water on the brain". Hydrocephalus is a condition involving an abnormal increase in the amount of cerebrospinal fluid within the four fluid-filled, connected chambers (ventricles) of the brain. It is usually caused by an obstruction of the normal spinal fluid passage from one fluid chamber to another. Hydrocephalus can occur at birth or develop later on in life from obstructions related to hemorrhage in the brain, meningitis, brain tumors or other causes.

Treatment of hydrocephalus often requires the surgical placement of a shunt to divert the accumulated fluid from the brain. Through neuroendoscopy, neurosurgeons can open up chambers in the ventricles of the brain, making it simpler and easier to insert shunts. One form of neuroendoscopy, endoscopic third ventriculostomy (ETV), can treat the condition and eliminate the need for a shunt altogether.

In ETV, the neurosurgeon inserts a small endoscope through a dime-sized opening in the skull and makes a perforation on the floor of the brain's third ventricle. This allows the cerebrospinal fluid in the ventricles to bypass the obstruction and circulate normally, thus eliminating the need for the implantation of a permanent shunt device.

"ETV is a safe and effective surgical treatment for obstructive hydrocephalus, with a high success rate of 80 to 93.5 percent," Mariano said. "It is now the treatment of choice for certain cases of obstructive hydrocephalus both for children and adults."

Endoscopy makes possible the treatment of other intracranial (within the skull) conditions such as vascular malformations, cysts and tumors-with smaller surgical openings and less stress on surrounding tissues. The use of small endoscopes with high-resolution optics and computer guidance techniques minimizes trauma to the brain and can promote faster patient recovery.

Pioneers of neuroendoscopy

The St. Luke's International Institute of Neurosciences and Mariano are among the pioneers of neuroendoscopic operations in the Philippines. A 12-year veteran in endoscopic neurosurgery, Mariano played an active role in developing this surgical discipline in the country.

Over the last 11 years, half of the total number of neuroendoscopy procedures in St. Luke's Medical Center was done on children. The International Institute of Neurosciences is comprised of a full-time staff of neurosurgeons that can treat both adults and children. Equipped with the full range of the latest, most effective neuromedical and neurosurgical technologies available in St. Luke's Medical Center, these highly skilled professionals perform a significant number of neurosurgical procedures every year.

Good news to patients of the International Institute of Neurosciences. You can now pay for your procedures and services through BPI Express Credit, Security Bank Mastercard, Diners Card at 0-percent interest, at 3 and 6 months deferred payments until June 30.

Rehabilitating Mindanao State University

THE MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY held lofty sights when it first opened its doors on Sept. 1, 1961. Its aim, as stated in the school's vision, was to "become a Center of Excellence not only in teacher education, science, and technology, but also in tourism, sports, arts, humanities, and social sciences as well"; all that, in addition to helping in the nation's development and bridging the gap between Christians and Muslims.

Naturally, goals so large and numerous do take some time to attain. MSU began with 282 students, 19 faculty members and staff, and three core colleges: Community Development, Education, and Liberal Arts. MSU, however, had its own shares of negative rumors.

Tourists and visitors most recent observation, though, showed many changes occurring on campus-an entire rehabilitation, in fact. With stunning scenic views, lush greenery, and perfect weather atop its 10-square-kilometer hill site, MSU already naturally drew in the crowds. The modern-designed King Faisal Mosque is another popular feature, and the Marawi Resort makes sure to accommodate your every need.

The current president, Sultan Ricardo de Leon, has managed to bring MSU to its current heights. Entering office Sept. 21, 2005, his works tap all aspects of student life-preservation of the MSU Golf and Country Club (complete with a 48-hole course!), the fully furnished Dimaporo Gym, an MSU Oval and grandstand, and pool to encourage an active and healthy lifestyle. The Mamitua Saber and Agakhan Museum to preserve arts, The Institute for Peace and Development, the MSU Caravan of Peace and Development, and the First Friendship Games for Peace promote camaraderie. Even simple daily improvements, such as a safe walkway connecting all departments, infrastructure and classroom repairs, and person-to-person talks with deans and heads, were formulated by De Leon.

DE LEON

Now, the campus includes six autonomous campuses: MSU-IIT (CHED Center of Excellence in Science and Technology), MSU-General Santos, MSU-Sulu, MSU-Maguindanao, MSU-Naawan, and MSU-Tawi-Tawi. Its different schools have also ranked amongst the top in the Philippines.

"I'm here to harmonize these diverse human resources for the advantage of Mindanao. We need to build an understanding among political, spiritual and intellectual leaders to create a culture of peace, climate of tolerance and cooperation", he said, in allusion to the MSU Vision 2020. "Change is always slow, but foreseeable. Now is the time to build the foundation for our future children." Indeed, as a man who has turned a school from struggling to succeeding, De Leon definitely knows what it needs to effect change.

Healthy heart for a better life

ACCORDING TO THE WORLD Health Organization (WHO), cardiovascular diseases (CVD) cause 17 million deaths every year. Locally, the Department of Health reveals CVD accounts for 25 percent of all the deaths in the Philippines, making it among the leading causes of mortality in the country.

While cardiac illnesses are mainly considered as a disease of the aged, the young population is not spared from the disease. What's more alarming is some are not even aware of it so they dismiss such symptoms as chest pain, tingling in the arms, and even jaw pain.

Contributing to the incidence of heart disease among young adults are poor eating habits, obesity, unhealthy habits such as smoking and drinking, inactivity, and other uncontrollable factors such as heredity.

Experts observe that the Filipino diet is cholesterol-rich with staples like rice, red meat, and oil. Such a diet amplifies one's chances of acquiring heart disease. Cholesterol may clog the arteries, preventing blood from being transported to the heart. This may eventually lead to heart attack.

Statistics also show that there is an upward trend in smoking among young people despite knowing that smoking also leads to cardiac disease. A survey by the WHO revealed that four out of 10 people aged 13 to 15 had engaged in smoking. Their lifestyle also exposes them to alcohol consumption and stress which have been linked to heart diseases. Inactivity makes them an easy target for heart disease.

An active lifestyle is important in maintaining a healthy heart as exercise burns calories, helps control cholesterol levels, lowers blood pressure, strengthens the heart muscle, and makes the arteries more flexible. WHO recommends at least 30 minutes of regular exercise daily to keep the heart healthy.

Altering your lifestyle and managing risk factors such as smoking, drinking, and stress also help.

For optimum cardiac performance, people should consciously eat healthy. Nutritionists and dieticians recommend the food pyramid for Filipinos to ensure healthy eating and help people stay away from bad cholesterol.

Plant Sterol: breakthrough

A breakthrough discovery called plant sterols help lower cholesterol. These naturally occur in fruits, nuts, seeds, cereals, vegetable oil, and legumes.

Although the benefits of plant sterols have been identified since the 1950s, the ability to incorporate them in foods is a recent development. With this, people can now easily fight bad cholesterol as they consume food or beverages fortified with plant sterols.

Nesvita ProHeart with Acticol is breakthrough milk for adults, containing plant sterols which block bad cholesterol from being absorbed into the body. Studies from Nestle Research Center in Switzerland show that drinking two glasses of Nesvita ProHeart everyday has been scientifically proven to reduce LDL cholesterol (bad cholesterol) by seven percent in 30 days.

Regular consumption of Nesvita ProHeart with Acticol complements a diet that is low in saturated fats and high in fruits and vegetables. Regular exercise and weight management also efficiently diminish the risks of developing heart problems.

It is never too early to care for the heart. With heart diseases still among the top causes of death in the country, it is always prudent to know preventive measures. With Nestle continuously utilizing food technology to develop products that ensure not only a healthier heart but also a more potent physical and mental well-being, the road to total wellness becomes conveniently accessible.

HANDS-ON MANILA HOLDS DAY WITH KIDS AND JOLLIBEE

Inquirer, through its participation in 'MaAga ang Pasko sa Jollibee', recently gifted kids with toys and books through Hands-On Manila. As one of the yearly campaign's 12 partners, the publication named Hands-On Manila as a new beneficiary. The program already donates to various institutions through the DSWD, and media's participation helped reach more kids with the message of goodwill. The donation coincides with the conclusion of the annual project, which is spearheaded by multi-awarded actor Aga Muhlach and is now the country's longest-running toy and book donation drive. For their part, Abante, ABS-CBN Publishing Inc, BusinessWorld, The Daily Tribune, Journal Group of Publications, Manila Bulletin, Manila Standard Today, Mega Magazines and Publications Inc, Mirror Magazine, Philippine Star, and Summit Media also named new beneficiary organizations. Apart from Hands-On Manila, the donations collected from more than 500 Jollibee stores nationwide were also given to hundreds of other kids from new beneficiaries Bantay-Bata, Caritas Manila, Children's Hour-Muntinlupa Development Foundation, Children's Library, CRIBS, Operation Damayan, Hospicio de San Jose, Sa Aklat Sisikat-Payatas, Tahanang Walang Hagdan, Virlanie Foundation, and White Cross Children's Home.

Starting young to ensure your child's future

IT IS NEVER TOO EARLY TO ENCOURAGE children to go for their dreams. From being a fireman, policeman, or soldier to being a doctor, lawyer, or an architect—it is the sense of achievement and accomplishment of being an upstanding and responsible member of society which motivates parents to support such dreams and aspirations during a child's formative years.

Part of the grand plan is to educate the child about basic principles that would serve as guide rules in living their lives—and one of which is proper saving. While a filled piggy bank offers proof that every peso counts, putting birthday money into a child's own bank account offers interest growth and ensures for that child's secure future.

Current market offerings for children most often resemble the plain vanilla passbook savings account which parents set up for their kids. But current child psychology experts agree that the children need to be hands-on in their own savings accounts as soon as the concept of money is realized or when they start needing it, at around age 3.

Security Bank's new youth-oriented product, Jr.One, addresses all of the above.

Jr.One is definitely not a plain vanilla savings account by any standard. The new product is described as an interest-earning account bundled with personal accident insurance that can be utilized as an educational fund/allowance for the child in case something happens to his parents or guardian. It also includes an unlimited dental and health consultation package that account holders can make use of for one full year.

With a minimum of P500 initial deposit, account holders will be able to monitor and manage their own funds with their own passbook and/or a MasterCard Electronic ATM card. Other benefits include gifts on events like birthdays and account anniversaries; exclusive events for account holders; balance upgrade promos; and kiddie points or reward points.

Security Bank believes that the product can help the youth learn how to value money, and more importantly, learn a basic principle of future financial stability that would lead to them achieving all their hopes and dreams.

Alternative enalapril brand offers more at a cheaper cost

HYPERTENSION, OR HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, is one of the major causes of heart attacks, strokes and death. According to the National Nutrition and Health survey, 17.4 percent of adult Filipinos are hypertensive. In a survey conducted by the Philippine Heart Association Council on Hypertension, 50 percent of these hypertensive patients fail to comply with their treatment properly. Financial difficulty turns out to be the primary reason behind this non-compliance.

In response to this need for affordable medication, a cheaper brand of the antihypertensive drug enalapril is currently available in the market. Enalapril belongs to the class of antihypertensive drugs known as angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors, which have been proven to be effective in the treatment of hypertension and chronic heart failure. ACE inhibitors such as enalapril have also been shown to confer cardiovascular benefits on patients in addition to the benefits of blood-pressure lowering alone. Hence, this class of drugs is used to improve survival following a heart attack, with or without high blood pressure.

The drug has been found to be generally well-tolerated in controlled clinical trials involving 2,987 patients. Adverse experiences by patients after taking the drug were considered mild and transient in nature. Discontinuation of therapy due to clinical adverse experiences was rated at 3.3 percent for patients with hypertension and 5.7 percent for those with heart failure. In patients with hypertension, the overall percentage of patients treated with enalapril reporting adverse experiences was comparable to placebo.

A local study done at the Quirino Memorial Medical Center (QMMC) confirmed that this inexpensive brand of enalapril provides an equal blood pressure-lowering effect similar to that of the originator brand. Eighty-three patients were examined, and then divided into two groups, to take either the generic brand of enalapril or the originator brand.

After four weeks, no difference was observed in the systolic blood pressure (SBP) and diastolic blood pressure (DBP) reduction for both groups. No significant discrepancy was also detected in terms of heart and respiratory rate changes. Lastly, no side effects have been reported from both groups of patients.

"Enalapril 10 mg significantly controls blood pressure level similar to the originator brand. This study also proves that Enalapril 10 mg has no known complications," said Dr. Kurt Glenn Jacoba, chair of the department of internal medicine at QMMC.

Another study published in the New England Journal of Medicine explained that enalapril also protects kidney function. The trial composed of 74 patients showed that the decrease in the glomerular filtration rate (GFR) - considered the best measure of kidney function - among the enalapril group is non-inferior to the decrease in GFR among those who took an angiotensin receptor blocker, another class of antihypertensive medication.

GFR is crucial as it determines the status of the kidney and the extent of damage or disease of this vital organ. A better diagnosis is in turn given for the patient's hypertensive treatment. The protective effect of enalapril on the kidneys is vital since this particular body organ is at risk of damage from long-term elevation of the blood pressure.

With all these health benefits and more, Pascual Laboratories' brand of enalapril offers a safe and inexpensive alternative which is 50 percent more economical than the originator brand. However, it is advised that this particular prescription product should be taken only upon doctor's advice. A healthy diet, regular exercise and cessation of smoking habit can help lower one's blood pressure.

For more information on hypertension and enalapril, text HYP MESSAGE to 0920-9618126.

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for as low as
PhP32,311.69/sqm

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Brgy. Tambo, Parañaque City
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for as low as
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Paseo de Roxas St., Makati City
8 Units Available
for as low as
PhP36,797.86/sqm

8 Wack-Wack Condominium
Wack-Wack Road, Mandaluyong City
13 Units Available
for as low as
PhP38,252.87/sqm

CONDOMINIUMS

MAKATI CITY

LOT 1 – CONDO CMML
Floor Area 654.4 sqm.
4F The World Center, Sen Gil Puyat Ave.
Minimum Bid Price 29,940,000

LOT 2 – CONDO CMML
Floor Area 659.68 sqm.
5F The World Center, Sen Gil Puyat Ave.
Minimum Bid Price 37,945,000

LOT 3 - CONDO-CMML
Floor Area 385 sqm.
Unit 201, G/F Saguittarius Bldg
HV dela Costa St., Salcedo Vil
Minimum Bid Price 26,950,000

LOT 4 - CONDO-CMML
Floor Area 65.56 sqm.
Unit 1103 (Eleventh Sky) 11F,
Cityland Condo 10 Tower I, HV dela
Costa St, Salcedo Village
Minimum Bid Price 1,784,000

LOT 5 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area 66.11 sqm.
3B. Thercon Condo. N. Garcia St.
Minimum Bid Price 1,736,000

MANDALUYONG CITY

LOT 6 - CONDO RSDL
Floor Area 174.15 sqm.
Unit 3001B, Wack Wack Twin
Towers Condo, Wack Wack Rd
Minimum Bid Price 7,055,000

PARANAQUE CITY

Asiaworld City, Brgy. Tambo

LOT 7 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area 363.94 sqm.
Unit 15C - Cleveland Tower
Minimum Bid Price 8,280,000

LOT 8 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area 363.94 sqm.
U-5C - Cleveland Tower
Minimum Bid Price 8,171,000

LOT 9 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area 360.71 sqm.
Unit 5B - Cleveland Tower
Minimum Bid Price 8,116,000

LOT 10 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area 333.2 sqm.
Unit 10A - Washington Tower
Minimum Bid Price 7,997,000

PASIG CITY

LOT 11 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area 274.47 sqm.
Unit PH-A, Chateau Verde Condo.
Ex Rodriguez Jr Ave, Bo Ugong
Minimum Bid Price 6,999,000

LOT 12 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area 122.83 sqm.
Unit 325 - Chateau Verde Condo
E Rodriguez Jr Ave, Bo Ugong
Minimum Bid Price 2,880,000

CAVITE

LOT 13 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area 62.89 sqm.
Unit 22-A, Cluster Dominico, Vista
de Loro Heights Temale
Minimum Bid Price 906,000

COMMERCIAL

PASIG CITY

LOT 14 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 10,156 sqm.
Along Amang Rodriguez Ave.,
Barrio Manggahan
Minimum Bid Price 106,404,000

QUEZON CITY

LOT 15 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 4,304 sqm.
Quirino Highway cor Maligaya
Drive, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price 57,244,000

LOT 16 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 4,666.79 sqm.
Aurora Blvd cor Balete Drive
Cubao
Minimum Bid Price 82,136,000

LOT 17 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 3,010.73 sqm.
Aurora Blvd cor Balete Drive
Cubao
Minimum Bid Price 48,172,000

RESIDENTIAL

MUNTINLUPA CITY

LOT 18 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,596 sqm.
Floor Area 830 sqm.
No. 3 Don Jesus Blvd., Alabang
Hills Village Phase 2 Bo Alabang
Minimum Bid Price 23,303,000

PARANAQUE CITY

LOT 19 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 58.5 sqm.
Floor Area 130 sqm.
Unit 136 Sherwood Heights,
Jerusalem St., Multinational Village
Minimum Bid Price 2,315,000

LOT 20 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 195 sqm.
Floor Area 395 sqm.
5002 San Isidro St., San
Antonio Valley V
Minimum Bid Price 3,477,000

QUEZON CITY

LOT 21 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 300 sqm.
Floor Area 148 sqm.
113K-8th St., Kamias, Diliman
Minimum Bid Price 3,516,000

LOT 22 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 400 sqm.
Floor Area 535 sqm.
No. 71 Mapang-akit St., Diliman
Minimum Bid Price 8,112,000

LOT 22a – RSDL LOT
Lot Area 3,246 sqm.
Cor. Sanso & Zalameda Sts.,
Corinthian Gardens Subd., Brgy
Ugong Norte, Cubao
Minimum Bid Price 86,560,000

LOT 23 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area [illegible]
WITHDRAWN
Minimum Bid Price 15,509,000

VALENZUELA CITY

LOT 24 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 500 sqm.
Pag-ibig St. Brgy Lingunan
Minimum Bid Price 720,000

RIZAL

LOT 25 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 103 sqm.
Floor Area 60 sqm.
Lot 5 Block 4 St. Andrew St Villa
Estrella Subd., Bo. Carangalan,
Cainta
Minimum Bid Price: TBA

Sta. Barbara Luxury Estates Subd. Mission Hills, Brgy. San Roque, Antipolo City

LOT 26 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,081 sqm.
Lot 14, Blk 1 Beverly St
Minimum Bid Price 3,243,000

LOT 27 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,222 sqm.
Lot 7 Blk 3 Beverly St
Minimum Bid Price 3,666,000

LOT 28 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,000 sqm.
Lot 2, Blk 5 Belmont St
Minimum Bid Price 3,000,000

LOT 29 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,000 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 5 Belmont St.
Minimum Bid Price 3,000,000

LOT 30 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 486 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk 1 Mangold St.,
St Monica II Classic Estate Subd.,
Mission Hills, Brgy San Roque
Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price 1,750,000

LOT 31 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,454 sqm.
Westminster Road, Town & Country
Estate, Mayamot, Antipolo
Minimum Bid Price: TBA

LOT 32 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 360 sqm.
Barrio Dela Paz, Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price 504,000

Sta. Catalina I Subd., Mission Hills, Brgy. Mahabang Parang, Angono

LOT 33 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 355 sqm.
Lot 1, Blk. 2, Camel/Clarkson St.
Minimum Bid Price: TBA

LOT 34 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 308 sqm.
Lot 28, Blk. 1, Concord St.
Minimum Bid Price: TBA

LOT 35 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 308 sqm.
Lot 18, Blk. 2, Concord St.
Minimum Bid Price TBA

LOT 36 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 308 sqm.
Lot 56, Blk. 1, Corinth St
Minimum Bid Price TBA

LOT 37 – LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 20,400 sqm.
Bo. San Jose, Rodriguez
Minimum Bid Price 23,070,000

BATANGAS

LOT 38 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 240 sqm.
Floor Area 150 sqm.
No 417 San Bernardo Vill., Daraza,
Tanauan
Minimum Bid Price 766,000

BULACAN

Town & Country North Subd., Abangan, Marilao, Bulacan

LOT 39 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 240 sqm.
Lot 21, Blk 27 Guijo St
Minimum Bid Price TBA

LOT 40 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 240 sqm.
Lot 20, Blk 27 Guijo St
Minimum Bid Price TBA

LOT 41 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 455 sqm.
Lot 18, Blk 29, along Nangka St.
Minimum Bid Price TBA

LOT 42 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 180 sqm.
Dao St., Town and Country North
Subd., Abangan, Marilao
Minimum Bid Price TBA

LOT 43 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,000 sqm.
Malhacan Road, Meycauayan
Minimum Bid Price 8,121,000

LOT 44 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 204 sqm.
Lot 55 Block 31 Silver Street,
Cityland Subd., Pulong Buhangin,
Sta Maria
Minimum Bid Price 172,000

LOT 45 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 11,386 sqm.
San Rafael Bulacan
Minimum Bid Price 2,232,000

LOT 46 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 803 sqm.
Lot 2, Blk. 5, Papaya St.,
Constantino Park Subd Marilao
Minimum Bid Price 1,686,000

LOT 47 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 575 sqm.
National Road, Bo Bigte Norzagaray
Minimum Bid Price TBA

LOT 48 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 343 sqm.
Floor Area 306 sqm.
Bo. Saluysoy, Meycauayan
Minimum Bid Price 1,425,000

CAVITE

LOT 49 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 198,404 sqm.
Ligtong, Rosario
Minimum Bid Price 55,667,000

LOT 50 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 150 sqm.
Lot 5 Block 41 Madrid St., Town and
Country West Subdivision, Bo.
Molino, Bacoor
Minimum Bid Price: TBA

LOT 51 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,557 sqm.
Bo. Lalaan, Silang
Minimum Bid Price TBA

LOT 52 - RSDL LOT
Lot Area 240 sqm.
Road Lot 15, Green Valley Subd.
San Nicolas, Bacoor
Minimum Bid Price 240,000

Grand Villas Subd (w/in FCIE) Bo. Lancaan, Dasmariñas

LOT 53 – LOT ONLY
(with unfinished structure)
Lot Area 150 sqm.
Floor Area 100 sqm.
Lot 3 Block 3, Road Lot 3
Minimum Bid Price 485,000

LOT 54 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 150 sqm.
Lot 4 Block 3, Road Lot 3
Minimum Bid Price 450,000

LOT 55 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 150 sqm.
Lot 6 Block 3, Road Lot 3
Minimum Bid Price 891,000

LOT 56 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 150 sqm.
Lot 9 Block 3, Road Lot 3
Minimum Bid Price 485,000

LOT 57 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 152 sqm.
Floor Area 100 sqm.
Lot 15 Block 2, Road Lot 3
Minimum Bid Price 1,159,000

LOT 58 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 150 sqm.
Lot 16 Block 2, Road Lot 3
Minimum Bid Price 450,000

LOT 59 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 150 sqm.
Floor Area 100 sqm.
Lot 17 Block 2 Road Lot 3
Minimum Bid Price 1,130,000

LOT 60 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 150 sqm.
Floor Area 100 sqm.
Lot 18 Block 2, Road Lot 3
Minimum Bid Price 1,436,000

LOT 61 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 150 sqm.
Lot 19 Block 2 Road Lot 3
Minimum Bid Price 450,000

LOT 62 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 150 sqm.
Lot 20 Block 2, Road Lot 3
Minimum Bid Price 450,000

LOT 63 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 150 sqm.
Lot 21 Block 2 Road Lot 3
Minimum Bid Price 450,000

LOT 64 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 150 sqm.
Lot 22 Block 2, Road Lot 3
Minimum Bid Price 450,000

LOT 65 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 150 sqm.
Floor Area 100 sqm.
Lot 23 Block 2 Road Lot 3
Minimum Bid Price 485,000

LOT 66 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 150 sqm.
Floor Area 100 sqm.
Lot 24 Block 2, Road Lot 3
Minimum Bid Price 485,000

LOT 67 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 150 sqm.
Lot 25 Block 2 Road Lot 3
Minimum Bid Price 450,000

LAGUNA

LOT 68 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 547 sqm.
Zavalla & Purificacion Sts., Zavalla
Village 3 Bo. Tagapo, Sta. Rosa
Minimum Bid Price 1,641,000

LOT 69 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 340 sqm.
Tenessee St., Town & Country
Southville Subd., Bo Calaboso,
Biñan
Minimum Bid Price 893,000

LOT 70 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 150 sqm.
Lot 6, Bk. 10, La Residencia De Sta. Rosa
Minimum Bid Price 619,000

INDUSTRIAL

PARAÑAQUE CITY

LOT 71 – LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,330 sqm.
Doña Irenea Avenue, Ireneville
Subd
Minimum Bid Price 25,036,000

CAVITE

LOT 72 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 17,729 sqm.
Poblacion Rosario
Minimum Bid Price 29,918,000

LOT 73 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 6,030 sqm.
Brgy. Maguyam, Silang
Minimum Bid Price 11,819,000

MIXED-USE

BATANGAS

LOT 74 - RSDL/AGRI LOT
Lot Area 15,179 sqm.
San Felix, Sto. Tomas
Minimum Bid Price 8,348,000

CAVITE

LOT 75 – LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 5,000 sqm.
Bo. Gregorio, Trece Martires
Minimum Bid Price 9,864,000

RSDL/AGRI LOT
Rodeo Countryside Subd, Brgy Esperanza, Alfonso Cavite
Minimum Bid Price: 900,000/lot

LOT 76- Lot 29 Blk 2
Lot Area 1,000 sqm.

LOT 77- Lot 3, Blk 5
Lot Area 1,000 sqm.

LOT 78 Lot 12 Blk. 7
Lot Area 1,000 sqm.

LOT 79 Lot 14 Blk 7
Lot Area 1,000 sqm.

LOT 80- Lot 16 Blk 7
Lot Area 1,000 sqm.

LOT 81- Lot 18, Blk 7
Lot Area 1,000 sqm.

LOT 82- Lot 2 Blk 15
Lot Area 1,000 sqm.

LOT 83- Lot 26 Blk 6
Lot Area 925 sqm.

LOT 84- Lot 28 Blk 6
Lot Area 925 sqm.

RSDL LOT
Dreamworld Subd., A. Soriano Highway, Bgy. Timalan, Naic

LOT 85– Lot 4 Blk 5
Lot Area 1,067 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price 1,067,000

LOT 86- Lot 11, Blk 5
Lot Area 1,076 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price 1,076,000

LOT 87- Lot 12 Blk 5
Lot Area 1,000 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price 1,000,000

LOT 88 Lot 11, Blk 6
Lot Area 993 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price 993,000

LOT 89 Lot 6 Blk 11
Lot Area 4,463 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price 4,463,000

LOT 90- Lot 7, Blk 14
Lot Area 1,347 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price 1,347,000

LOT 91- Lot 10, Blk. 14
Lot Area 1,323 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price 1,323,000

LOT 92- Lot 20 Blk 14
Lot Area 1,511 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price 1,209,000

LAGUNA

RSDL AGRI LOT
Paradise Valley Farmlot Subd., Brgy. Linao, Calauan

LOT 93- Lot 1, Blk 2
Lot Area 6,889 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price 3,376,000

LOT 94- Lot 2, Blk 2
Lot Area 5,862 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price 2,873,000

LOT 95- Lot 3, Blk 2
Lot Area 4,834 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price 2,369,000

LOT 96- Lot 4, Blk 2
Lot Area 3,365 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price 1,650,000

LOT 97- Lot 5, Blk 2
Lot Area 3,262 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price 1,599,000

LOT 98 Lot 7, Blk 2
Lot Area 2,453 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price 1,031,000

LOT 99 Lot 8, Blk 2
Lot Area 2,960 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price 1,244,000

LOT 100- Lot 9, Blk 2
Lot Area 2,778 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price 1,167,000

LOT 101– Lot 10 Blk. 2
Lot Area 2,383 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price 1,001,000

LOT 102- Lot 12, Blk. 2
Lot Area 2,730 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price 1,529,000

LOT 103 Lot 13 Blk 2
Lot Area 2,729 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price 1,529,000

LOT 104- Lot 14, Blk 2
Lot Area 2,719 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price 1,523,000

LOT 105- Lot 1, Blk 3
Lot Area 2,526 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price 1,503,000

LOT 106- Lot 3, Blk 3
Lot Area 2,683 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price 1,404,000

LOT 107- Lot 4, Blk 3
Lot Area 2,506 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price 1,403,000

LOT 108- Lot 2, Blk. 3
Lot Area 2,504 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price 1,403,000

LOT 109 RSDL/AGRI LOT
Lot Area 17,929 sqm.
Bo. Pagsanjan, Pagsanjan
Minimum Bid Price 2,000,000

LOT 110 - RSDL LOT
Lot Area 4,422 sqm.
Brgy. Masaya, Bay
Minimum Bid Price 5,306,000

ALL PROPERTIES FOR SALE ARE ON AN AS IS WHERE IS BASIS. PROPERTIES, RATES AND PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Brokers are Welcome!

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Meycauyan, Bulacan

25 Properties Available
from 329 sqm. to 1,289 sqm.
FOR AS LOW AS P643,000/lot
Eagleridge Subd., Gen. Trias,
Cavite

CALOOCAN CITY

LOT 1 - LOT W/ 2-STOREY
RSDL. BLDG & WAREHOUSE
Lot Area 680 sqm.
Floor Area: Rsdl- 327.35sqm;
Ind'l-306 sqm
Vista Verde North Ave & Colombo
St., Vista Verde North Exec
Village, Brgy. Llano
Minimum Bid Price 3,239,000

MANDALUYONG CITY

LOT 2 – CMML LOT
Lot Area 450 sqm.
Lot 32 Blk 15 Boni Avenue,
Plainview
Minimum Bid Price 10,192,000

LOT 3 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 651 sqm.
San Ignacio St., Hulo
Minimum Bid Price 10,230,000

MANILA

LOT 4 - HOUSE & LOT
Lot Area 45 sqm.
Floor Area 65 sqm.
2007-A Dayang St. Sta. Ana
Minimum Bid Price 900,000

MARIKINA CITY

LOT 5 – LOT W/ 2-STOREY
3 UNITS CMML ALONG MAIN RD
Lot Area 289 sqm.
Floor Area 315 sqm.
Lot 50 JP Rizal St. Malanday
Minimum Bid Price 5,078,000

LOT 6 – CMML LOT W/
2-STOREY BLDG ALONG MAIN RD.
Lot Area 72.25 sqm.
Floor Area 85.5 sqm.
Lot 51-C JP Rizal St. Malanday
Minimum Bid Price 1,549,000

LOT 7 – CMML LOT W/
2-STOREY BLDG ALONG MAIN RD.
Lot Area 72.25 sqm.
Floor Area 85.5 sqm.
Lot 51-D JP Rizal St. Malanday
Minimum Bid Price 1,556,000

MUNTINLUPA CITY

LOT 8 - CONDO-CMML
Floor Area: 77.5 + 13.5 sqm
Unit B, 3F, Unioil Center Condo.
Acacia St cor Commerce Ave
Madrigal Bus. Park, Alabang
Minimum Bid Price 2,326,000

PASAY CITY

[illegible]
Rufino Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat cor. Taft Avenues, Sta. Clara

LOT 9 - CONDO-CMML
Floor Area 63.563 sqm.
Unit D
Minimum Bid Price 1,430,000

LOT 10 - CONDO-CMML
Floor Area 57.556 sqm.
Unit E
Minimum Bid Price 1,295,000

LOT 11 - CONDO-CMML
Floor Area 63.237 sqm.
Unit F
Minimum Bid Price 1,423,000

LOT 12 - CONDO-CMML
Floor Area 64.751 sqm.
Unit G
Minimum Bid Price 1,457,000

QUEZON CITY

LOT 13 - CMML LOT
Lot Area 293 sqm.
Quirino Highway Sta Monica Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price 4,823,700

RIZAL

LOT 14 - HOUSE & LOT W/
SWIMMING POOL
Lot Area 240 sqm.
Floor Area 152 sqm.
#3 Pomelo St., Valley View Exec.
Vill., Phase II, Bulao, Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price 1,277,000

LOT 15 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 120 sqm.
Pines Avenue Pines City,
Executive Village Phase II San
Roque, Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price 266,000

Village East II, Phase I, Brgy San Isidro, Angono

LOT 16 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 350 sqm.
B34 L19
Minimum Bid Price 341,000

LOT 17 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 350 sqm.
B34 L9
Minimum Bid Price 341,000

LOT 18 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 350 sqm.
B34 L3
Minimum Bid Price 341,000

LOT 19 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 999.05 sqm.
44 Gen. Antonio Luna Ave., Sitio
Balanti, Ampid, San Mateo
Minimum Bid Price 7,493,000

Town & Country Estates, Brgy. Sta. Cruz, Antipolo City

LOT 20 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,702 sqm.
Lot 11, Block 14, Kingsway St.
Minimum Bid Price 4,468,000

LOT 21 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 794 sqm.
Lot 13-A, Block 14, Kingsway St
Minimum Bid Price 2,085,000

LOT 22 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,244 sqm.
Lot 11, Blk 7-A, Birmingham St.
Minimum Bid Price 3,266,000

LOT 23 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,353 sqm.
Lot 12 Blk 7-A, Birmingham St
Minimum Bid Price 3,552,000

BATANGAS CITY

LOT 24 - CMML LOT W/
2-STOREY BLDG
Lot Area 361 sqm.
Floor Area various
Km 104 National Rd, Brgy
Kumintang Ilaya
Minimum Bid Price 5,243,000

LOT 25 – CMML LOT W/
3-STOREY BLDG
Lot Area 228 sqm.
Floor Area 594 sqm.
P. Zamora St., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 5,908,000

CAVITE

LOT 26 – HOUSE & LOT
Lot Area 349 sqm.
Floor Area 229.38 sqm.
Lot 3 Block 9, Hyacinth Street, Sta.
Cecilia Subd. I, Tanza
Minimum Bid Price 827,000

LAGUNA

LOT 27 - HOUSE & LOT
Lot Area 180 sqm.
Floor Area 82.94 sqm.
Lot 27, Block 4, Ma. Jesusa Subd.
Balibago, Sta. Rosa
Minimum Bid Price 774,000

LOT 28 – LOT W/ 6-DOOR RSDL. APT.
Lot Area 180 sqm.
Floor Area 136.5 sqm.
Lot 28, Block 4, Ma. Jesusa Subd.
Balibago, Sta. Rosa
Minimum Bid Price 806,000

LOT 29 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 2,166 sqm.
Lot 2 Fencing St., Pacita Homes, Ph I,
Brgy. San Francisco, Biñan
Minimum Bid Price 4,549,000

PRIME PROPERTIES

BTP 1 - RSDL LOT
Lot Area 704 sqm.
1513 Princeton St., Wack-Wack,
Mandaluyong
Minimum Bid Price 28,000,000

BTP 2 - CONDO-CMML
Floor Area: GC-190.3 sqm.
2C- 223.59 sqm.
Escolta Twin Towers GC & 2C,
Escolta St., Manila
Minimum Bid Price 14,435,000

BTP 3 – CMML LOT
Lot Area 1,200 sqm.
Along Alabang-Zapote Rd.,
Madrigal Business Park, Alabang,
Muntinlupa City
Minimum Bid Price 60,000,000

BTP 4 – CMML/INDL
W/ 4-STOREY BLDG.
Lot Area: 1,243 sqm.
Floor Area: 2,640 sqm.
Quirino Ave Bo Tambo,
Parañaque City
Minimum Bid Price 37,232,000

BTP 5 - CONDO-CMML
Floor Area: GF-154.2 sqm.
MF- 400.448 sqm.
Dona Josefa Condominium
M/F & 2F, Aurora Blvd cor. 15th
Ave., Cubao, Quezon City
Minimum Bid Price 11,372,000

BTP 6 – CMML/AGRI LOT W/
104 FISH HATCHERY/CAGES-
TAAL LAKE FRONTAGE
Lot Area: 50,801 sqm.
Bo. Pansipit, Agoncillo, Batangas
Minimum Bid Price 45,714,000

BTP 7 – CMML LOT
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm.
Maharlika Rd, Tagaytay City, Cavite
Minimum Bid Price. 10,000,000

BTP 8 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 617.5 sqm.
Lots 9 & 10 Blk 1 Aguinaldo
Highway, Tanzang Luma, Sta
Rosa, Laguna
Minimum Bid Price. 12,350,000

BTP 9 – LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,495 sqm.
Lot 13 & 14 Blk 1 Promenade Ave
Promenade Subd., Sta. Rosa,
Laguna
Minimum Bid Price: 12,259,000

(02) 752.2592 or 752.2580 for more information:
CALVIN 0917.5743058 CHERYL 0922.6271793 EARLY 0917.5743067

ALL PROPERTIES FOR SALE ARE ON AN "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS. PROPERTIES AND PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

BROKERS ARE WELCOME!

Republic of the Philippines
National Historical Institute
T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Historical Institute (NHI), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following:

DESCRIPTION : Rescue Restoration of the Corregidor Historical Landmarks

LOCATION : Corregidor Island, Cavite

A. Middleside Barracks Ruin
Approved Budget : P 4,812,500.00
Bid Fee : P 2,000.00

B. Mile Long Barracks Ruin
Approved Budget : P 9,625,500.00
Bid Fee : P 4,000.00

SUBMISSION AND OPENING OF BIDS:
March 22, 2007
10:00 A.M.

Interested parties are advised to submit Letter of Intent and photocopy of their Certificate of Registration of Business Name (with original for authentication) on March 9, 2007.

Eligibility Statement Forms shall be issued on March 9, 2007. Duly Accomplished Eligibility statements shall be submitted to the Chairman, NHI-BAC National Historical Institute, T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila on March 12, 2007

Bid documents will be made available only to eligible bidders for issuance upon payment of a non-refundable fee at the BAC Secretariat upon presentation of the original Certificate of Eligibility.

Bid proposals shall be submitted in two (2) sealed brown envelopes with the name of the project to be bid and the name of the bidder in capital letters, addressed to the Chairman of the NHI Bids and Awards Committee, T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila. the "First Envelope" shall contain the accomplished Technical Statements. The "Second Envelope" shall contain the financial proposal.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its implementing Rules and Regulations.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bid/eligibility statements, to declare a failure of bidding if there is, among others, reason to suspect an evident collusion among bidders resulting in no competition, to waive any required formality in the bids received, and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **JULIETA M. DIZON**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Feb. 26 & March 2, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Center for Health Development - X
NORTHERN MINDANAO MEDICAL CENTER
Capitol Compound, Cagayan de Oro City
Telephone No.: 726-362; Fax No.: 721794
Website: www.doh.gov.ph/nmmc

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NORTHERN MINDANAO MEDICAL CENTER (NMMC), through the General Appropriations Act 2007 intends to apply the sum of Six Million Three Hundred Seventy Seven Thousand Pesos (Php 6,377,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments for the procurement of Various Hospital Equipment. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The Northern Mindanao Medical Center now invites Bids from eligible bidders for Various Hospital Equipment.

Item No.	NAME OF PROJECT			Approved Budget of the Contract (ABC)	
				Unit Cost	Total Cost
1	1	unit	Database Server	1,250,000.00	1,250,000.00
2	1	unit	Laptop Computer	80,000.00	80,000.00
3	1	unit	Industrial Dryer Machine	300,000.00	300,000.00
4	24	units	Hospital Beds	62,500.00	1,500,000.00
5	1	unit	Negatoscope	40,000.00	40,000.00
6	1	unit	Therapeutic Ultrasound (for Rehab Unit)	120,000.00	120,000.00
7	2	units	Emergency Room Stretcher	100,000.00	200,000.00
8	1	unit	Delivery Room Table	650,000.00	650,000.00
9	1	unit	ECG Machine	75,000.00	75,000.00
10	1	unit	Pulse Oximeter	62,000.00	62,000.00
11	1	unit	OR Table	1,300,000.00	1,300,000.00
12	1	unit	OR Light	800,000.00	800,000.00
			TOTAL AMOUNT		Php 6,377,000.00

Delivery of the goods is required by May 11, 2007. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act." And is restricted to Filipino citizens/ sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Northern Mindanao Medical Center and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8.00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00). The method of payment will be through Cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The NORTHERN MINDANAO MEDICAL CENTER will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on March 5, 2007 - 2:00 PM at NMMC Auditorium.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 9:00 AM of March 19, 2007. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Cash/Cashier's Check (One percent of the ABC) or Bank Guarantee (One and one-half percent of the ABC). Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on March 19, 2007, 9:00 AM at NMMC Auditorium. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The NORTHERN MINDANAO MEDICAL CENTER reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NORTHERN MINDANAO MEDICAL CENTER
Capitol Compound
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. No. 08822-726362
Fax number 08822-721794

(Sgd.) **JOSE C. CHAN, MD**
BAC Chairman

(PDI--Feb. 26, 2007)

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RESOURCE & RESEARCH STAFF
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GENERAL OFFICE AFFAIRS STAFF
> Must be knowledgeable in accounting and human resources

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Phone: (02) 413.66.25 / (082) 228 60 20 / able ad.agency@gmail.com
Or submit to security guard of Port Royal Building, Rada St., Makati City

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Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines

7CB-GSC-028

PURCHASE OF THREE (3) UNIT 4-WHEELED VEHICLE

(Name of Project)
3 items of different four wheeled vehicle
(pls. see details at www.gensantos.gov.ph)

The Local Government Unit of General Santos City, through the CY 2007 Annual Budget intends to apply the sum of Two Million Seven Hundred Forty Thousand Pesos (P2,740,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Purchase of Three (3) Unit 4-wheeled Vehicle. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

The Locla Government Unit of General Santos City now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Purchase of Three (3) Unit 4-wheeled Vehicle. Delivery of GOODS is required by 30 calendar days. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act." and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsive of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of P 1,000.00 to the City Treasurer's Office. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative

The Local Government Unit of General Santos will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested on March 1, 2007, 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon at the BAC Office, 2nd Floor, Right Wing, City Hall Building, General Santos City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon of March 13, 2007. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit equivalent to One Percent (1%) of ABC or Bank Guarantee equivalent to One and half a percent (1 ½) of ABC or Surety Bond equivalent to Two and half percent (2 ½) of ABC or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon of March 13, 2007 at the BAC Office, 2nd Floor, Right Wing, City Hall Building, General Santos City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The Local Government Unit of General Santos City reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to the contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Bids and Awards Committee
Gina Y. Pigar
2nd Floor, Right Wing, City Hall Building, General Santos City
Tel. Nos. (083) 301-0553 (083)-302-7210
Fax: (083) 301-0553
Website address: www.gensantos.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **NAEL JOSEPH D. CRUSPERO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - February 26, 2007)

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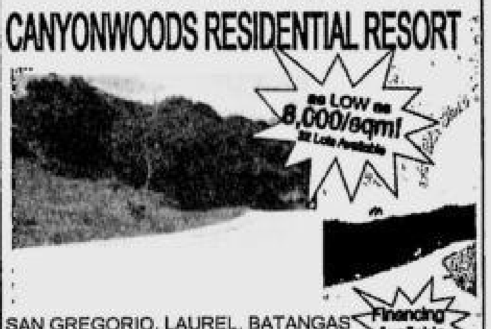

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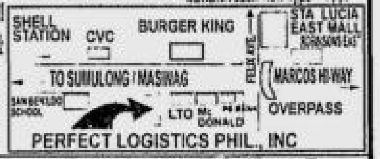

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COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, LOCAL GOVERNANCE, AGRI-BUSINESS, EDUCATION, COMMUNICATIONS, REINTEGRATION OF EX-COMBATANTS AND PROJECT ADMINISTRATION EXPERTS

Chemonics International **(www.chemonics.com)** seeks experts in the fields of community and mid-scale infrastructure, export and investment promotion, business development, local governance, agri-business, education, workforce development, communications and the reintegration of ex-combatants for long and short-term assignments under an anticipated five-year USAID project in Mindanao, Philippines.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Five years experience in fields listed above. Experience working with USAID or other donors preferred.
- Advanced degree in agribusiness, business, law, governance, economics, public administration/finance or related field preferred.
- Five years of relevant experience in the Philippines or Southeast Asia. Experience in Mindanao preferred.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills in English and Filipino.

Project administration candidates are also sought to support project technical activities. Experience in the following fields is desired: operations management, communications, monitoring and evaluation, training, finance and accounting, grants management, procurement and information technology.

Qualifications:

- Five years experience working on donor projects in fields listed above.
- USAID related procurement and contracting experience preferred.
- Five years of relevant experience in the Philippines or Southeast Asia.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills in English and Filipino.

We also recruit short-term consultants and specialists in free-port zone development, port operations and improvement and conflict resolution.

Please send a chronological CV, 3-4 references and a brief cover letter to philrecruit2@chemonics.com by March 9, 2007.
Specify position in email subject line.

Final candidates will be contacted for interviews

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON
Municipality of Don Carlos

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Tel No. 088226-2449/2577 TeleFax 088226-2522

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Municipal Government of Don Carlos, Bukidnon has received a financial aid from the Bukidnon Provincial Government for the ***Extension and Renovation of Don Carlos Integrated Bus Terminal Area and Completion of New 2-Storey Don Carlos Municipal Hall Building*** of which this Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) now invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to submit bid (***partial bid***) for the hereunder contracts.

A. Completion of New 2-Storey Don Carlos Municipal Hall Building

PARTICULARS	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT	COST OF BID DOCS
1. Supply, Delivery & Installation of Office Furniture & Fixtures	Php 2,470,865.55	Php 4,942.00
2. Supply, Delivery & Installation of Aircon Units	1,387,930.00	2,775.86

B. Extension and Renovation of Don Carlos Integrated Bus Terminal Area

PARTICULARS	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT	COST OF BID DOCS
1. Supply and Delivery of Various Construction Materials	Php 2,080,970.00	Php 4,162.00
2. Supply and Delivery of Good Lumber	279,195.00	559.00
3. Supply of Sand and Gravel	41,484.30	350.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents - Instruction to Bidders (ITB). Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years, with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The eligibility Check/Screening as well as the preliminary examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of BAC activities is listed, as follows:

A. Completion of New 2-Storey Don Carlos Municipal Hall Building

Activities	Schedule	Venue
1. Issuance of Bid Documents to Prospective Bidders	February 28 - March 05, 2007	Mayor's Office, Don Carlos, Bukidnon
2. Pre-bid Conference	March 05, 2007 @ 10:00 A.M.	Municipal Accounting Conference Room
3. Eligibility Checking & Opening of Bids	March 06, 2007 @ 10:00 A.M.	Municipal Accounting Conference Room
4. Bid Evaluation	March 07, 2007	
5. Post-Qualification	March 09, 2007	
7. Issuance of Notice of Award	March 12, 2007	

B. Extension and Renovation of Don Carlos Integrated Bus Terminal Area

Activities	Schedule	Venue
1. Issuance of Bid Documents to Prospective Bidders	March 02 - 09, 2007	Mayor's Office, Don Carlos, Bukidnon
2. Pre-bid Conference	March 09, 2007 @ 10:00 A.M.	Municipal Accounting Conference Room
3. Eligibility Checking & Opening of Bids	March 13, 2007 @ 10:00 A.M.	Municipal Accounting Conference Room
4. Bid Evaluation	March 14, 2007	
5. Post-Qualification	March 15, 2007	
7. Issuance of Notice of Award	March 19, 2007	

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the LGU Don Carlos Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchasnd by interested bidders upon payment of necessary fee/s (Bidding Documents) specied above. All bids must be accompanied with *Bid Security* in a form of *Cash* equivalent to *1% of the ABC.*

The Municipal Government of Don Carlos, Bukidnon reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process at any time prior to contract award, without thereby any liability to the affected Bidder/s for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid, and award the contract to the bidder/s whose proposal/s is/are deemed most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) ENGR. ANTONIO A. CASABUENA
BAC Chairman

(PDI--February 26, 2007)

A LEADING OIL PALM PLANTATION GROUP OF COMPANIES WITH OPERATION IN LUZON, VISAYAS AND MINDANAO IS IN URGENT NEED OF

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Preferably a Master's degree holder in Agronomy
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and with the basic knowledge in entomology and pathology
Good in both oral and written communications
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Application letter with resumé and 2 x 2 ID picture may be sent to:

API, 4th Flr., FCB Financial Center
AC Cortes Avenue, Mandaue City
6014 Cebu, Philippines
Email Address: api@agusanplantations.com
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(PDI – Feb. 25 & 26, 2007)

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2nd Engr	from US$3,795. –	8 mos. Contract
3rd Engr	from US$2,640. –	10 mos. Contract
Electrician	from US$3,019. –	10 mos. Contract
C/Cook	from US$1,378. – to US$1,486. –	10 mos. Contract
Ck/B (AB/Ck)	from US$1,067. –	10 mos. Contract
Bosun/Fitter	from US$1,105. – to US$1,213. –	10 mos. Contract
K/AB	from US$1,004. –	10 mos. Contract
AB/Oiler	from US$903. –	10 mos. Contract
OS/Wiper	rom US$680. –	10 mos. Contract

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OBITUARIES

ANNOUNCEMENT

The body of the late **MAGDALENA MADRID GALAPON** is at St. Mark Memorial Chapels located at No. 1615 G. Tuazon corner Loreto Sts., Sampaloc, Manila since November 14, 2006 for safekeeping.

Calling her relatives to come by to facilitate her burial.

Pls. call St. Mark Memorial Chapel at 781-1772 or 749-3679 for inquiry.

Our Dearly Beloved

LORNA LOPEZ PESTAÑO

August 12, 1941 – February 19, 2007

Her loving husband
Catalino Pestaño, Jr.
Children
Romulus, Catalino III and Maria Angela
Brothers and Sisters
Rolando (†) and Virginia
Daniel and Carmen
Divina
Edna and Nelson

Relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Ascension Chapel of the Cathedral Shrine Parish of the God Shepherd Church, Fairview Park, Quezon City.

Burial will be on Tuesday, February 27, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. at the Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous. Love is not pompous. It is not inflated. It is not rude. It does not seek its own interests. It is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but with the truth. It bears all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
—Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

ERNESTO B. JIMENEZ, JR.

"Bo"

Aug. 10, 1946 – Feb. 24, 2007
His family

Wife **CORATEC**; Children **COREEN, BENGEL** and **JAMI**

Parents **ERNESTO** (†) and **NARNI** (†) **BRAGANZA JIMENEZ**, parents-in-law **COL. DALMACIO** and **TARCILA TECSON**

Siblings **NONO** (†) and **SOC, NENENG** (†), **MANNY** (†) and **ANGIE, CHONA** and **WILLY CRUZ, RINA** and **PIE DAVID, FR. BOBOY, SVD, JONI** and **DR. GERMAN TAN CARDOSO**, and **CHARO**.

Brothers- and sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, and other relatives and friends request your prayers for the repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel C, Christ the King Parish, Greenmeadows, Quezon City.

Cremation and burial at the Loyola Memorial Park Marikina will follow the Memorial Mass at 8 a.m., Thursday, March 1, 2007.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 14:6

Our Dearly Beloved Mother

Cristina Fajardo Quiambao

Peacefully joined our Lord and her husband,
Ismael D. Quiambao †, on February 24, 2007 at the age of 84.

Her loving children **Onesima** † **& James Walsh, Dolores & Horace Wee, Margarita & Gerardo Ignacio, Benedicta Chatur, Peter & Lyzette, Robert & Luisa, Gloria & Ralph Maynard, Rosemary Ann, Richard & Normita**; grandchildren **Christine & Michael, Sean, Jimmy & Renee, Shannon, Sherry, Duane, Miguel, Gene, Alif, Stephen, Patrick, Kevin, Karen, Katherine, Kristopher**; great grandchildren **Kate, James** and **Gavin**; faithful companions **Elly** † **& Felix Sta. Ana** and relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, February 28, 2007, at Manila Memorial Park (formerly Holy Cross), Novaliches, Quezon City, after a Holy Mass at 9:00 a.m.

In Loving Memory
on the
21st Death Anniversary
of

NEMESIO I. YABUT

1925 – 1986

Masses will be offered today, February 26, 2007 at the following churches:

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE PARISH -- **6:00 A.M**
Orense St., Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati City
STS. PETER & PAUL -- **6:00 A.M.**
P. Burgos St., Makati City
ST. ALPHONSUS DE LIGUORI CHAPEL ---------------------------------- **6:15 A.M.**
Magallanes Village, Makati City
ST. JOHN BOSCO PARISH -- **6:30 A.M.**
Pasay Road, Makati City
SACRED HEART CHAPEL --- **7:00 A.M.**
San Antonio Village, Makati City
SANCTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH -------------------------------- **12:15 Noon**
Forbes Park, Makati City
STO. NIÑO DE PAZ CHAPEL -- **12:15 Noon**
Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati City
NUESTRA SRA. DE GRACIA PARISH ------------------------------------ **6:00 P.M.**
Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City
ST. ANDREW, THE APOSTLE PARISH ----------------------------------- **6:30 P.M.**
Bel-Air II, Makati City

Traders see volatile Asian market ahead

HONG KONG—A SLEW OF key US indicators, including housing and manufacturing data, is set to inject a bit of volatility into Asian stock markets this week as investors gauge the health of the world's biggest economy.

Industrial production data in both Japan and South Korea, and India's federal budget will also be closely watched, while Hong Kong's earnings season picks up a notch with results from Standard Chartered Plc. and power utility CLP Holdings Ltd.

"Trading may be a bit volatile because there will be a lot of US data to digest. But the scenario that the US economy continues to maintain healthy growth and inflation remains benign hasn't changed and so the outlook is generally still positive," said Louis Wong, research director at Phillip Securities.

In China, all eyes will be on how mainland investors react to the People's Bank of China's move to lift banks' required reserves in an attempt to keep a check on credit expansion.

The announcement was made on the eve of the Lunar New Year holiday, just before the week-long market break. The increase is effective on Feb. 25 and represents the fifth hike since June.

In the past week, MSCI's measure of Asian stocks excluding Japan touched a record high. The market gauge has risen about 4 percent this year, extending last year's 29 percent rally.

South Korea's KOSPI, Australia's S&P/ASX 200 index and Singapore's Straits Times Index all set new highs.

Markets in China and Taiwan reopen after the week-long holidays.

In Japan, a further upside for the benchmark Nikkei share average is likely to be limited after the market rose 1.75 percent in the past week to a seven-year closing high.

"The market will look overheated if the Nikkei hits 18,500," said Kazuhiro Takahashi, general manager of the equity marketing department at Daiwa Securities SMBC Co. Ltd.

"Investors are paying attention to the current economic condition and economic indicators such as industrial production could prompt selling."

The Nikkei average, which closed at 18,188.42, is likely to trade between 17,600 and 18,500, he added.

In Korea, Seoul's main KOSPI may fail to post significant gains after setting a record on Feb. 22, with investors seen cautious about the market's recent rally in light of uncertainty about the outlook for corporate profits and the domestic economy.

Investors will be especially keen for further signs of the health of the economy, with industrial output likely to garner attention, analysts said.

"It's going to be a very volatile week, given the high technical burden after the KOSPI hit a record," said Kim Joong-hyun, an analyst at Goodmorning Shinhan Securities.

In Hong Kong, investors will be watching how mainland bourses react to China's move on Feb. 16 to raise commercial lenders' required reserves.

Still, many analysts expect Hong Kong stocks to maintain their uptrend following a short week of quiet trade, but questioned whether returning vacationers will have revised their outlook.

"The trend is still up," said John Schofield, director at Tempus Investment. *Reuters*

Fed execs still wary of inflation

Policy makers closely watching price pressures

LOS ANGELES—FEDERAL RESERVE POLICY-makers last Friday indicated they were still wary about the potential upside risks to inflation despite signs that price pressures may be abating.

The Fed has kept its benchmark interest rate steady at 5.25 percent since June, in the hope that slower economic growth will curb inflation.

Financial markets expect the central bank to cut rates later this year.

Dallas Federal Reserve Bank President Richard Fisher, speaking in Los Angeles, said he would like to see inflation well below 2 percent.

"I don't like to be pinned down on a number. I will be personally... much more comfortable when we get that well below 2 percent, and I'll leave it at that," Fisher said when asked if 2 percent was the maximum rate of inflation with which the US central bank was comfortable.

Inflation may be ebbing from elevated levels, but the Federal Reserve is monitoring price trends closely, he said.

"There is hope that we may be turning the corner on inflation, but that needs to be confirmed and we are still vigilant," said Fisher, who is not a voting member of the US central bank's policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee this year.

Some policy-makers have indicated they would like to see core inflation, as measured by the price index for personal consumption expenditures, or PCE, at around 1 to 2 percent.

Core PCE was at 2.2 percent in the past year.

Separately, San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank President Janet Yellen said the current US inflation rate of a little over 2 percent is at the upper end of her price stability range.

"I don't have a firm ... view ... I would say that the current inflation rate of a little bit over 2 percent is at the upper end," she said in response to a question.

Yellen, speaking in Sacramento, repeated her view expressed earlier this week that while inflation remained the predominant risk, policy was now "well-positioned" to bring it down.

Despite somewhat hawkish rhetoric from the Fed policy-makers, market reaction was subdued as US Treasuries rallied on concerns over the struggling subprime mortgage market and rising tensions with Iran.

Fisher, when asked by reporters about the Fed's warning on inflation risks in the minutes of its Jan. 30-31 meeting released earlier this week, spelled out where he saw the danger in terms of growth or inflation.

"Clearly, if I were to be asked which I had more concern about, it would be that there are still risks to the upside. In the distribution curve, there is a tail that is a little bit fatter in terms of risks to the upside on inflation," he said.

Minutes from the January FOMC meeting showed the Fed was retaining its stance of watching vigilantly for inflation.

"Participants did not yet see a downward trend in core inflation as definitely established," the minutes said, meaning policy-makers remain ready to push rates up if needed.

However, Fisher reiterated his optimism that price pressures would abate over the course of this year, while growth would come in around 3 percent of gross domestic product. *Reuters*

Yen at center of eurozone ministers meet

BRUSSELS—FINANCE MINISTERS FROM the 13 countries sharing the euro were due to meet today to take stock of growth in their combined economy amid concerns that the yen's weakness is hurting their exports.

The Japanese currency hit a new low against the euro on Thursday of 159.61 yen before firming up slightly on Friday.

The exchange rate question "will certainly be addressed Monday evening," said a source close to Luxembourg Prime and Finance Minister Jean-Claude Juncker, who chairs monthly meetings of eurozone finance ministers.

Juncker is due to "debrief" colleagues about a meeting of finance ministers from the Group of Seven most industrialized nations two weeks ago in Essen, central Germany, where Japan assured its European partners the yen would pick-up strength.

Despite such assurances and an increase in the Bank of Japan's interest rates, the yen has so far failed to recover.

After the G7 meeting, several European ministers took diverging positions on the yen's weakness with Juncker sounding the alarm while Italian Finance Minister Tommaso Padoa-Schioppa said that exchange rates should be decided by markets.

The yen's weakness has become a hot topic in Europe because it makes Japanese exports, such as cars, cheaper on international markets, dealing a blow to competing European products and the broader economy.

With the eurozone economy growing at its fastest rate in six years, there are few other headwinds threatening to blow the economy off course, apart from a sudden oil price spike.

Booming economic growth has helped many EU countries that have struggled to meet European deficit rules to improve their finances thanks to unexpectedly strong tax revenues.

The eurozone ministers are to review each other's progress in using such revenues to improve the public accounts before further talks on Tuesday on the same subject with their counterparts from the 27-nation EU.

Special attention is likely to be paid to the Italian case, firstly because 2007 is a crunch year for Rome to cut its deficit to EU norms and given the current political crisis in the government.

"The 2007 budget has already been voted," a French diplomat said. "There is no sign of change in economic policy in Italy."

Although Prime Minister Romano Prodi's political future is uncertain, Padoa-Schioppa is expected in Brussels.

Recent data showed that eurozone growth was boosted at the end of 2006 in particular by strong performances in Germany and Italy, which had won the dubious distinction in recent years of being the "weak man of Europe" because of its sluggish growth.

"We believe the short-term fallout from the political crisis will be limited, given also that the recent improvement in public finances offers a precious cushion," said economists Marco Annunziata and Marco Valli at Italian bank Unicredit in a note to clients. *AFP*

INQUIRER
It's all over; Marcos flees!

What's the news behind the news?
- Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc
Editor in Chief, Philippine Daily Inquirer

What nonsense is this?
- Eugenia Duran-Apostol
Founder, Philippine Daily Inquirer

They launched the Philippine Daily Inquirer in defiance of the news blackout after Ninoy's assassination. Since then, Inquirer has become a beacon for fearless journalism in the country. As a fitting tribute, these champions of press freedom have made it to the venerable list of Time Magazine's Asian Heroes. Visit www.inquirer.net to know more about this campaign.

Dare to ask.
Be an Inquirer.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

NGOs visit water facilities

Manila Water recently launched a program meant to inform consumers on the intricacies of treating raw water and converting it to safe drinking water.

Dubbed "NGO Lakbayan", the program involved a series of field trips for sectoral representatives to the water facilities-from the watersheds to the filtration plant-as well as to sewage and septage plants.

The group to be given the guide tour was composed of representatives from the Center for Advanced Philippine Studies (CAPS), Health Alternative for Total Human Development Institute (Healthdev), the University of the Philippines School of Economics, the Philippine Council for Sustainable Development, Philippine Business for the Environment (PBE) and Pattlepam.

Addressing the participants, Manila Water president Antonio T. Aquino said that by the end of the tour, they would have a fuller understanding and appreciation of the processes involved in producing the water they consume daily and how the wastewater system actually function.

The tour is also part of the company's strategy of establishing stronger partnerships with non-government organizations (NGOs), Aquino said.

The group was toured through the La Mesa Dam and the Balara Filtration Plant where visitors learned about how raw water is treated before it gets distributed to the public.

Ensuring a continuous supply of potable water to every household and office in its concession area is, however, is just half of Manila Water's public service, the group learned.

Another major component of the company's operation involves sanitation and management of waste water to mitigate any adverse effects on the environment.

The group then toured the UP Sewage Treatment Plant and the Kalayaan Septage Treatment Plant and was oriented on wastewater treatment.

Participants appreciated the tour as it gave them practical and actual knowledge on both water and wastewater facilities. The group said the activity was educational and useful in their efforts to generate public awareness on basic social services.

Prior to the "Lakbayan", Manila Water had conducted dialogues with Bantay Tubig and Water for the People's Network, including a forum for 15 social and environment NGOs.

PHILAM PLANS EMPLOYEES CONDUCT SOCIAL OUTREACH PROJECTS

Philam Plans Inc, the leader in providing pension, education and life/memorial plans in the country, and its employees recently conducted two major corporate social development projects as part of continuing efforts to lend a helping hand to Filipinos in great need. Over 30 Philam Plans employee-volunteers actively supported the company's annual 'Give Joy, Share-A-Toy' event at the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) in Manila where they toured the city's largest public hospital while giving away presents and warm hugs to the underpriviledged children confined at the PGH. Now on its 9th year, the project was led by Philam Plans president and CEO Jack Howell, together with his wife Jenny and former Philam Plans president and CEO Jesus G. Hofileña, who is presently Philamlife EVP for sales, marketing and agency training. Meanwhile, in response to the vast damage caused by tropical storm 'Reming' to the people of Legaspi City and its environs, Philam Plans and its employees instituted a disaster relief program for the community. Philam Plans raised from its employees numerous donations in the form of cash, clothing, blankets, food and various other commodities. The Howells personally led the distribution of the relief goods to the typhoon victims. The two outreach programs were organized by Philam Plans' sales training and education development team (STED) led by assistant vice president Marie Paul B. de Luna who is presently the company's social development champion. Shown is Howell (3rd row, 2nd from right) leading employee-volunteers in distributing relief goods in Legaspi City.

DM9JaymeSyfu gains four new creative directors

FOUR WELL-DESERVING CREatives from hot shop DM9JaymeSyfu have been recently promoted to creative director status: Louie Sotto, Jerry Hizon, Mike Calaquian and Gogie Sinson (associate creative director).

"This was so overdue. These guys transferred 'addresses' but good thing Merlee and I worked with them all these years in their different homes so their growth was never put to a halt", Eugene Demata, DM9's executive creative director, shared.

DM9'S HOT CDs

Louie Sotto and Gogie Sinson have joined the founding team of DM9. They first started working in Ace Saatchi then moved to BBDO/GO. Also a founding member, Mike Calaquian joined DM9 after a stint in BBDO's Proximity and McCann-Erickson. Jerry Hizon also worked in Ace Saatchi but came from Ogilvy and Mather before joining DM9. All of them at some point have worked with Jayme and Demata in their previous agencies.

Louie and Gogie's Tower Records "IPod series" got short listed in the last Cannes Festivals, the London International Awards and accepted in Campaign Brief's The Work. Louie's Coppertone campaign (with art director Herbert Hernandez) has also been accepted in Campaign Brief's The Work. Both campaigns are among the few from DDB Asia chosen as finalists in the prestigious DDB Pinnacle. The two quarterly winners in the KBP Radio Awards are his work for Schering-Plough's Drixine and Splash Hiyas.

Jerry and Mike's passion for Filipino insights, and strength to talk to the masses, have been responsible for excellent and humorous work including Smart Unli "Sadako", "Big Thumb" and the public service ad for Smart titled "Wrong Send".

Reporting directly to Demata, they are responsible for all major accounts.

The promotions would be of great help to chief creative officer Merlee Jayme as she takes an active role in the Creative Guild of the Philippines as president and in the Philippine Advertising Congress as creative competition co-chair this year.

TCL SUN INC SIGNS UP INTERNATIONAL MODEL FOR SLIMFLAT TV

TCL, the television brand popularly known as 'my new favorite', is moving forward in 2007 with valued technology and has recently signed up international model Ariani Nogueira as image model for the brand's new-generation SlimFlat TVs. The 19-year-old statuesque professional model from Brazil exudes the striking beauty that matches TCL's advanced features of exceptional picture quality and captivating sound designed for today's fashionable home and modern lifestyle. Shown are, from left, Xiaodong Wu, executive vice president of TCL Sun Inc, Ariani Nogueira, Alexander M. Espiritu, president of TCL Sun Inc, and Ramon OM Bermeo, president of Reach Communications.

LRI unveils new vision, corporate identity

LRI INC, A DIVISION OF PHARMACEUtical leader United Laboratories Inc (Unilab), recently unveiled its new corporate identity, heralding a new vision to become a world-class healthcare company providing best value products and services to Filipinos, Unilab president and CEO Carlos Ejercito announced recently.

"LRI is an emerging key player in the cardio-metabolic field, improving its rank from number 8 to number 6 last year," Ejercito said. "With the new vision, it is poised to further strengthen its market position and become the preferred partner in cardio-metabolic healthcare solutions."

LRI Inc general manager Lyle Morrell explains that the division's new corporate identity, which includes a new logo, tagline, hymn, and uniform, is consistent with its aspiration to be a world-class healthcare company.

"Our vision is to be regarded as the partner of choice in the management of cardiovascular and metabolic conditions," he said. "To achieve this, we will partner with doctors and the healthcare community to empower Filipino patients to better manage their cardiovascular and metabolic conditions."

This partnership with the healthcare community, Morrell expounds, includes encouraging early and appropriate diagnosis, providing a complete range of pharmacologic options, managing the psychosocial aspect of the disease, reinforcing lifestyle modification, and making treatment affordable and accessible to as many patients as possible.

"We are committed to deliver innovative products and services that will allow healthcare providers to live well so that they may heal others well," he adds. "We are equally committed to help Filipino patients heal well so that they may live well."

Among LRI's top brands are Versant (felodipine), Norten (imidapril HCI Hydrochlorothiazide), and the oral anti-diabetes drugs Glubitor (Gliclazide) and Glumet (Metformin HCL).

1st National Arts Fair slated Feb. 28

The Philippine arts possess a profound and meaningful heritage, spawning from the country's colorful history and rich diversity influenced by various cultures. The National Commission for Culture and Arts (NCCA) recognized the importance of providing a venue for Filipino artists—whether seasoned or aspiring—to understand, express and share this distinct artistic heritage with the public, as well as with one another. With this realization, the NCCA-Committee on Art Galleries, in cooperation with the Negros Cultural Foundation (NCF), is spearheading the country's 1st National Arts Fair.

The Arts Fair is slated from Feb. 28 to March 3 at the province of Occidental Negros. The event will be gathering gallery owners, collectors, art brokers, and artists all over the country with the goal of raising people's awareness of our cultural heritage and promoting the Filipino art as a major component of the creative industry. All—ambassadors, local government units, government agencies, art enthusiasts, business communities, the academe, and students—are encouraged to be part of this meaningful endeavor.

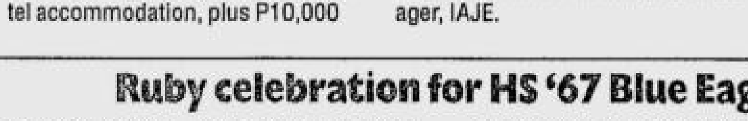
The various activities within the 5-day event are divided into four categories. The first category is the Art Fair, a venue for gallery owners and artists to display and sell their artworks. Second is the Art Chat, a series of symposia on art-related topics aimed at increasing appreciation for cultural, artistic, innovative and trendsetting endeavors. Experts and leading art patrons will be invited to give various talks on many artistic issues daily. The third category is the Art Exchange, which is comprised of workshops and demos intended to enhance skills related to art and arts management. And the final division is called Art Experience, which includes performances and alternative artistic endeavors.

The NCCA is an independent agency created by law to formulate policies for the development of the country's culture and arts; encourage artistic creation within a climate of artistic freedom; develop and promote the Filipino national culture and arts; and preserve the Filipino cultural heritage.

The NCF aims to provide a formal, institutional medium, which will expeditiously promote and enhance cultural artistic and socio-historical awareness, and to develop the NCF as an exemplary learning and outreach center in the Philippines, particularly the province of Negros Occidental.

For more information, call the Manila-based secretariat care of MerkCom at 750-1481 to 83 or e-mail merk.comm@gmail.com or estelacalderon@gmail.com.

WOW! MAGIC SING PROMO WINNERS



Valentines Day was made even more memorable for the lucky winners of the 'WOW! 1 Million SingKatutak Na Pamasko Promo' of WOW! Magic Sing. The winners bested 140,000 entries from all over the country. The following winners are: Ester V. Paular from Sto. Niño, Parañaque (P1 million), Rosie M. Impabiodo from Botbotones, Sta, Ignacia, Tarlac (P300,000) and Mary Jane Tabao from Olympic Heights, Eastwood City (P200,000). For the 'WOW! Country Package Tour' bonus promo, the winners are: Merci D. Garcia from Molo, Iloilo City (Tagaytay-Manila Escapade), Dr. Conry Triquero from Baesa, Quezon City (Tarsy Tour-Bohol), and Francisco P. Perlas Jr from BF Homes Parañaque (Boracay Tour). Included in each package tour are: two round-trip tickets, 3 days-2 nights standard hotel accommodation, plus P10,000 pocket money. WOW!, the best selling magic sing, is exclusively distributed by In-A-Jiffy Enterprises (IAJE) and G2K Corp. Shown are (from left) Olive Sanchez, general manager, IAJE, Vilma Floresca, sales manager, G2K Corp, Janice Teruñes, DTI representative, Cris Llamo, COO IAJE, and Janice Villamil, sales manager, IAJE.

Virus causing cervical cancer discovered

FILIPINOS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN, are not aware that cervical cancer is a growing health concern in the Philippines. Besides breast cancer, cervical cancer has become a major health problem in the Philippines. According to the 2005 Philippine Cancer Facts and Estimates published by the Philippine Cancer Society Inc, cervical cancer was the second leading cause of cancer death in women in 2004. In 2005, 7,277 new cases and 3,807 deaths due to cervical cancer were estimated to have occurred. Approximately 10 Filipino women were estimated to have died each day from cervical cancer.

Worldwide, cervical cancer is the second most common cancer in women (behind breast cancer). The World Health Organization estimates that there are currently more than 2 million women in the world who have cervical cancer. Every year, 490,000 new cases of cervical cancer are diagnosed. That is more than 1,350 new cases per day.

Scientists have recently discovered that cervical cancer is caused by a virus—Human Papillomavirus (HPV). Several risk factors that increase the odds that a woman might develop cervical cancer have been identified. The most important of these is infection by HPV. Doctors believe that women must have been infected by this virus before they developed cervical cancer.

In an international study done from 1989 to 1992 of women with cervical cancer in 22 countries, 96 percent of the women with cervical cancer in South Asia (Philippines, Indonesia, India, and Thailand) were infected with HPV, primarily types 16 and 18.

Common virus

HPV is a common virus. In 2001, WHO estimated that about 630 million people in the world (9 to 13 percent) were infected with HPV. Certain "high-risk" types of HPV such as types 16 and 18 can cause cervical cancer. However, HPV may also cause abnormal cervical cells and genital warts and these were associated with HPV types 6 and 11.

Anyone who has any kind of sexual activity involving genital contact could get HPV. However, it is also possible to get the virus without having intercourse. Because many people who have HPV may not show any signs or symptoms, they can transmit the virus without even knowing it.

HPV is highly contagious, so it is possible to be exposed to the virus only once to get it.

Certain types of HPV have been linked to pre-cancers and cancers of the vagina, vulva, and anus, in addition to their association with cervical cancer. In addition, some types of HPV can also cause cancers of the mouth and throat.

There is good news, though, to Filipino women. With the advancements in medicine, cervical cancer can now be prevented. A breakthrough vaccine has been recently developed and made available to girls as young as 9 years old and women around the world, to protect them against certain types of HPV. The vaccine from Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD) called Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus (Types 6, 11, 16, 18) Recombinant Vaccine is the first and only vaccine that can protect against the four types of HPV.

You need to consult an Ob-Gynecologist or your daughter's pediatrician to discuss ways to help prevent cervical cancer and other consequences of HPV. You can also call the MSD Call Center at 878-6338 or (toll-free) 1-800-1-888-6737, or log on to www.msd-beonguard.com for additional information.

Ruby celebration for HS '67 Blue Eagles

THE ATENEO DE MANILA HIGH SCHOOL BATCH '67 HAS LINED up a series of events to celebrate its 40th anniversary, which will kick off this Feb 28 with a 1 p.m. walk-through visit to the Ateneo Campus-the high school, the Moro Lorenzo Gym, the math and science building, the Church of the Gesu, the college campus and the grade school; followed by a 5:30 p.m. mass at the high school chapel, then dinner at the high school promenade. After the dinner, there will be a ceremonial presentation of a P1-million check to Fr. Ben Nebres, president of the Ateneo de Manila University in the presence of Gawad Kalinga's founder Antonio Meloto. A concert of the multi-awarded Ateneo Glee Club at the high school chapel caps the evening. Next day begins with a round of Golf at the WackWack Golf & Country Club, topped by an evening of partying to the music of Spirit of '67 at the Conway's Bar of the Makati Shangri-La. Members of grade school batch '63, high school '67 and college '71 can call Sonny Alvendia at 0917-8960067 for details,

Farm exports seen surging to $4.5B

By Christine A. Gaylican

YAP

THE COUNTRY'S AGRICULTURE EXPORTS are estimated to grow by 18 percent to $4.5 billion this year in view of the continuous expansion of new markets, particularly China and the Middle East, an agriculture official said.

Last year's export earnings of the farm sector hit $3.8 billion.

This double-digit growth is possible as demand for both agriculture- and fishery-based products from the Philippines is growing, according to Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap.

Yap said the increasing demand from China and the Middle East would usher in continuous growth for the country's top 10 agricultural exports, including fresh bananas and banana chips, fresh and canned pineapples, coconut oil (crude and refined), fresh milk and cream products, desiccated coconut (used as food extender for baked products and pastries), fresh tuna, shrimp and prawns.

He said local exporters of fresh mangoes would see better times this year as the Chinese government would resume importation of Philippine mangoes soon.

He said Chinese authorities have approved the use of hot water treatment for Philippine mangoes and this development would likely result in an increase in mango exports by at least 30 percent.

Last year, mango exports to China and its other territories, including Hong Kong, declined due to China's new import protocol that imposed stiffer phytosanitary requirements on mangoes.

In January, Yap and Vice Minister Li Chuanqing of the China Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine signed a memorandum of understanding that included in the protocol the hot water treatment for mangoes. This treatment is economical, effective and is a widely accepted infestation treatment for mangoes.

According to Yap, the MOA would increase the potential export volume of domestic mango producers/exporters by 100 percent to at least 100,000 metric tons this year.

Ethanol firms urged to use other feedstock

By Abigail L. Ho

TO ENSURE ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF FEEDstock to address the country's fuel ethanol requirements, the Department of Energy is encouraging the use of sweet sorghum and other feedstock aside from sugarcane.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said sweet sorghum could be harvested three times a year, unlike sugarcane, which could only be harvested after eight to nine months.

"I'm telling (those interested to put up ethanol refineries) to try sweet sorghum as a feedstock. The cycle for harvest is shorter, so you get more crops in a year," he said.

In a separate interview, Seaoil Philippines Inc. president Glenn Yu said his company, together with other oil firms, was considering other types of feedstock, including sweet sorghum, cassava and cellulosic materials, for a planned ethanol refinery.

Seaoil is part of Enerfuse Inc., which also has Flying V, Unioil Petroleum Philippines Inc. and Eastern Petroleum Corp. as consortium members.

With all consortium members already selling ethanol-blended gasoline directly from their pumps, they decided to become more aggressive in the alternative fuels sector by planning to put up an ethanol refinery of their own.

But Yu said the Enerfuse board has yet to decide on a final location for the plant, as well as which feedstock to use.

Under the Biofuels Act of 2006, all diesel-fed vehicles should use a minimum 1-percent biodiesel blend within three months of the effectivity of the law. Gasoline, on the other hand, should have at least a 5-percent ethanol blend within two years of the law's effectivity.

The mandated blend will rise to 2 percent for biodiesel after two years, and to at least 10 percent for bio-ethanol after four years.

In an earlier interview, Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said the country would have enough feedstock to produce the required ethanol volumes to meet the blending requirement two years from now.

He said, however, that entities interested in putting up ethanol facilities could not place their refineries near areas where there are sugar production facilities.

"They should choose areas that are far from sugar-producing areas, so as not to compete with sugar producers. At this point, excess sugar production is placed at only 10 percent. If you use sugarcane to produce ethanol, this may impact on sugar supply," he explained.

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SM DEPARTMENT STORE
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see page 03 >>

Developing muscles to keep competition at bay

The better your people, the faster the business will grow

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

A COMPANY'S SUCCESS LIES IN its people. And it's true for any company, regardless of size, location and industry.

The inescapable fact is, a firm relies on good people to make its business work: The better its people, the higher the company's chances of keeping the competition at bay.

This adage holds especially true in the retail industry where almost every dollar that goes into the revenue column passes through the front-liners—the sales girls and the cashiers at the stores.

Unfortunately, however, while they see their people's importance to their business, many local retailers do not invest enough in them, thinking that helping them along in their careers and spending time and resources on their training are expenses they could do without.

But there are those who look at these expenses as wise investments, and these have paid off indeed.

One of these is National Bookstore, the country's biggest chain selling books and school supplies with over 80 stores nationwide.

Founded over 60 years ago by Socorro Ramos, fondly called Nanay (mother) Coring, National Bookstore believes people are its greatest asset.

National human resource manager Trina Licauco-Alindogan says in an interview that during the early years of National, Nanay Coring herself would train the people in her stores in the art of selling.

She did so by example, and her first students are now training the front-liners on how to relate well with the customers that support National's growth.

It used to be that simply teaching by example was enough for National, but because it has grown so much over the past decade, it now puts more science into its training.

Alindogan says employees first go through a basic employee orientation program to equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills they will need on the retail floor.

Then they go through additional training in customer service, product knowledge and selling techniques. Those at the managerial and supervisory levels go through their own specialized training that includes entrepreneurship and leadership.

"We are also in the midst of doing our training needs analysis. With the use of certain tests, we will then be able to decipher what areas we are weak at and be able to train our people on these aspects or develop other types of interventions to help improve those particular weaknesses," Alindogan says.

She adds that human resource development will become an even more important facet of operations as National Bookstore evolves and the workforce increases from the current 3,000.

Leather goods chain Manel's Leathergoods, on the other hand, has gone a step further and put up what it calls the in-house Manel's Retail University to improve the quality of its workforce.

Manel's chair Manuel Siggaoat says in an interview that its philosophy is that every peso that goes to the company, goes through the sales people, that's why they deserve the extra attention.

Manel's even has an assistant manager specifically in charge of organizational development.

The manager is tasked to ensure the continuous development of the skills of the people, such that a sales person will know what the people at the factories are doing, and vice versa.

"Our emphasis is on customer service training," Siggaoat says, "we try to give them the knowledge they should have to help the customers. They know what our shoes are comfortable and durable, and they should be able to impart this knowledge to the cus-

DEVELOPING/ B2-2

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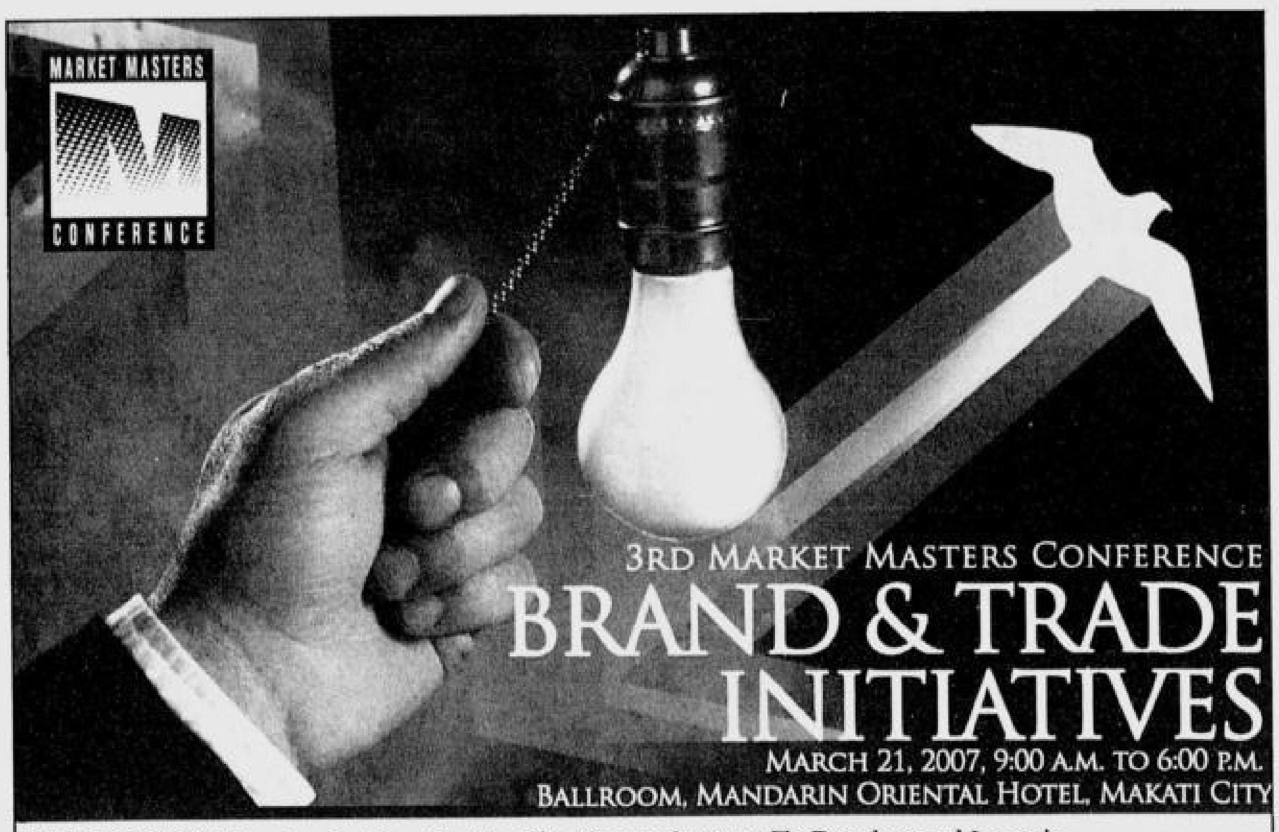
Soap-making seminar set at UP on March 10

MAKING AND USING THEM IS NOT ONLY hygienic, it could be profitable as well.

The Golden Treasure Skills Development Program will conduct a one-day seminar on soap-making at the College of Social Work and Community Development, UP Diliman, Quezon City, on March 10 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Topics to be discussed are sourcing of materials and costing. For reservation, please call 436-7826; 952-40-28; 951-2966 and 913-6551. Participants will experience making liquid soap, bar and powder soap, herbal bath soap.



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Session 3: How To Formulate Your Brand DNA for Success
Weena Pineda, VP-Corporate Marketing, Splash Holdings

Session 4: How To Benefit From In-Store Consumer Behavior
Benedicto Cid, Managing Director, AC Nielsen Philippines

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Leading the MAP

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Evelyn R. Singson

WHEN I TOOK THE POSITION OF MAP president at the start of last year, I knew that I would have one year on the job and that, upon the expiration of my term, I could never again become MAP president.

The difficulty, of course, with having so little time to do so much is that there is never much time to catch your breath.

So it was, on the arrival of the New Year, that I finally managed to take a very deep breath and look back at 2006. As I did so, it was with a profound sense of satisfaction that we met most of the promises we made to you.

The theme that we chose for 2006 was "Call to Action: Country Above Self." Given the tenor of the times, it was—and remains—highly appropriate. However, for all our accomplishments last year, there remains a mountain of work to do in order to bring lasting competitiveness to our country and prosperity to a larger segment of our society. I need not remind you that the success enjoyed by our Financial Markets in 2006 did little to help the plight of the 40 percent of Filipinos who live on less than $2 a day.

Thus, we are delighted that your new Board has decided to carry this theme over as its own.

A simple, yet compelling and inspiring theme, the idea of "Country Above Self" genuinely moves people to action. Whether it was out of a deep sense of noblesse or a desire for a profound change in our society, we were pleased at the enthusiastic response from our members who fully supported our activities and projects by organizing, promoting and attending them.

We also went regional in 2006 when we rejoined and—were eagerly welcomed by—the Association of Asian Management Organizations (AAMO). Nowhere was this welcome more apparent than when it decided to hold its Council Meeting in Manila shortly after the MAP's return to its fold. AAMO delegates even joined our 5th Annual MAP International CEO Conference as a further show of support. They admitted to being impressed with the Conference and left with fond memories of our country and people.

As a consequence of our experience with the AAMO, the MAP is now ready to spread its wings further and align itself with other international management associations. In so doing, the MAP's membership can expand its collective knowledge of management science and—to the extent that we, as business professionals, can—contribute to international learning on the subject.

The lessons we learn from the international management community will, no doubt, contribute to the further development of management practice in the Philippines. After all, it is only when our businesses are rated satisfactorily and our financial reporting considered compliant with internationally-accepted standards that the country can compete effectively on the international stage.

We likewise attempted to be a positive and constructive force in Philippine business; we wanted to act as a catalyst for, and contributor to, its economic development. Thus, we discussed issues critical to our economic and national life and presented both sides of arguments to give our members the opportunity to evaluate the issues at hand from different points of view.

We also chose our issues selectively and picked only those that mattered to business. In response to the preference of our members, we consciously stayed away from solely political issues that had the tendency to divide us.

After all, the MAP, among all business organizations, is the most qualified to advocate good governance standards and best practices to Philippine businesses, big and small. Therefore, the MAP should aim to be recognized as the repository of management knowledge and best business practices in the Philippines—and it must make this available to all management practitioners who desire to access it.

Looking towards the future, I believe that the MAP should strongly consider two things:

First, it should look into the opening of the MAP's technical meetings, conferences, forums, publications and portals to all who wish to advance their skills in management science.

To do so successfully, it is imperative that the MAP market its offerings as a viable professional service. This will have the effect of not only building the MAP's reputation—its "brand," as it were—but also enable it to shore-up and even expand its financial resources, providing it with the means to offer even more services to its members.

Second, we should strive to make the MAP Center a showcase for MAP's expertise in management. Our reliable and hard-working Executive Director, Arnold Salvador, needs our vision, input and support in transforming his Center into a 21st Century office. After all, it is incredibly difficult for him to satisfy 760 masters and, at the same time provide his office with up-to-date technology and to implement best practices.

The new Board may want to adopt this particular suggestion as a priority. By evaluating its organization, it can identify the required expertise and determine how its effectiveness and operating efficiencies can be improved upon further. In so doing, we can make our own house a model of the principles we teach.

When I took my oath of office a year ago, I just wanted to be a good President. I tried my best to be one but the judgment of whether I succeeded or not, is really not mine to make. I can only be grateful to you for entrusting the MAP to me for a year; it was indeed a big privilege for me to be of service to the men and women who are the drivers of the country's economic life.

(Edited speech of author during the MAP Inaugural Meeting and Induction of the 2007 Board of Governors. She is the president of eBusiness Services Inc. Feedback at <mapsec@globenet.com.ph>)

Real estate key to raising tourism

THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM (DOT) IS now also banking on the global real estate industry to fill up the gap in the country's tourism capacity.

DoT Secretary Joseph H. Durano bared this new thrust as he cited the significance of real estate development in triggering the rise of more tourism infrastructure and facilities across the country.

He cited this as reason for the DoT's support for the 1st Asian International Real Estate Expo & Conference (AIREEC), which will be held on Dec. 6-10 at the Philippine International Convention Center.

"With the theme West Meets East Meets West, AIREEC will bring to Manila the world's leading real estate players, including investors and funding entities, who can help supply the country's growing demand for more tourism facilities, especially first-class hotel accommodations and other amenities," Durano explained.

AIREEC is expected to attract some 400 foreign and local exhibitors and 5,000 participants from all over the world.

Organized by the Expo and Conventions Promotion Inc. and supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs, AIREEC is the brainchild of Filipino-American Susan Barlin, president liaison of the 1.3 million-strong National Association of Realtors.

For questions, call call 7292477, email info@aireec.com, or visit www.aireec.com).

Developing muscles . . .

From page B2-1

tomers."

Selling lessons are part of the curriculum of the Retail University, and as an incentive, Siggaoat says the top graduates are ensured of a promotion and a salary increase.

"I used to do all the training myself, but later I got outside help and now all my children are involved," he says.

Siggaoat says he emphasizes on training and development because he believes that having good people is a competitive advantage, just like the quality of the goods and the affordability of the products.

"The longevity will be assured if we have good people," he says, "others can easily copy our merchandise, but they can not copy good people," he explains.

Manel's has 40 stores nationwide, with 23 under sub-brands, such as Everything 100, Moda Plus and Maphisto. He hopes to increase the network to 67 by the end of the year, and he is relying on his people to achieve the goal.

Linea Italia

Fashion retailer Linea Italia, meanwhile, believes in the power of bowling to strengthen the bonds that keep its people together.

Linea Italia founder and chief executive Freddie Panicucci says that through the monthly bowling tournaments, his people feel better about working with each other, and in working for the company.

"During the games, they learn to help each other, encourage each other and cheer each other on," Panicucci says.

These good feelings make it easier for them, he says, to in turn provide good service the customers coming into the 25-year-old company's 10 stores in Metro Manila and in Cebu.

High morale combined with intensive training on Linea Italia's wide range of products from fashion houses in Italy, is one of the reasons behind the longevity of the retail company, he says.

Panicucci also says that unlike other firms, he does not have manuals to cover training and human resource development.

He says he just has one rule for his people and that is for them to use their common sense. That means that when a customer walks in to the store, it is just proper for them to help them, give them room to explore the store and then come in with ready advice when it's needed.

Common sense also dictates that they keep the store clean and keep track of finances and inventory.

It's not about finger pointing, he says, but cooperation among the staff thanks in part to the bowling tournaments.

Fashion sense is also part of the training because the front liners are themselves walking fashion plates.

"This is part of the whole concept of beauty. We favor tall, slim and dark-skinned Filipinas because for me this is the essence of Filipina beauty," he says.

Serving Pinoys' viewing . . .

From page B2-4

"These are the products that are closest to my heart. Those that have a personal impact on the lives of our customer. It can be the first movie they watched on their first date or the first words that kids learn from watching our video. As long as it can create a special moment and memory in to our customers, that is the most important and wonderful thing for us. That the product we are selling can create a meaningful and unforgettable experience to each and everyone."

"Our greatest achievement would be how we transformed the buying habit of the Filipino consumer from merely renting videos to collecting home videos. Equally important to Magnavision is how we have been able to satisfy our partners here and abroad, maintaining their trust and being able to forge long term relationships with them."

Chuaying also mentions their struggles, "Our greatest challenge is convincing customers to purchase original videos instead on buying pirated products. We respond to this by offering more premium quality products at more affordable prices."

Magnavision's dedication to providing premium products and customer satisfaction can be seen from their efforts in keeping up with today's trends. They are now looking into movie downloaffds, mobile and virtual purchase of videos. The goal is to make their products easier and convenient for consumers to purchase.

They also have special events for their special customers. Magnavision Inc. is offering an exclusive promotion to the buyers of the Casino Royale 2-disc special edition DVD.

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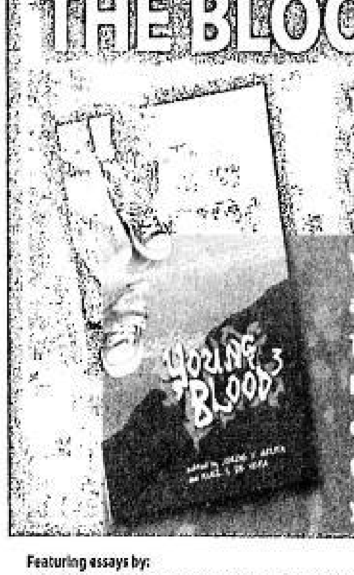

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Corporate donations

'No corporation, domestic or foreign, shall give donations in aid of any political party or candidate...'

Corporate Securities Info
Raul J. Palabrica

THE TRIENNIAL POLITICS CIRCUS IS IN town. At the forefront are some 40 candidates vying for 12 senatorial seats.

In a few weeks, it will be the turn of the aspirants for congressional and local positions to announce their plans for the May 12 polls.

As in the past, the coming political exercise is not going to be easy on the wallet of the candidates and, if they are so blessed, their financial benefactors.

According to reports, a senatorial wannabe needs at least P100 million to conduct a credible nationwide campaign.

About half of that amount is required for a successful run for congressman, governor or mayor of highly urbanized cities.

The money will defray the expenses for propaganda materials and operational requirements of the campaign staff.

Come May 12, the candidates have to make sure they have enough warm bodies to distribute their sample ballots and, when the polls close, watch over the counting of votes.

The scramble for campaign contributions has begun.

Financial support

The usual target of the solicitation drive is the country's business tycoons and the corporations that have been doing well these past years.

Cash donation is on top of the candidates' wish list for prospective financial backers.

The Anti-Money Laundering Law is not going to discourage the political aspirants from sounding off for financial assistance the businessmen whom they think are sympathetic to their ambitions.

In case monetary doleouts pose a problem, the help can come in the form of campaign leaflets, T-shirts, streamers, sample ballots or food supplies.

There is no problem if the businessmen dip into their own pockets for that purpose. They can spend their money any way they want.

But the story is different if the contributions are sourced from corporate funds or assets.

In less contentious times, corporations are allowed to donate to causes that, in the opinion of their board of directors, are deserving of financial assistance.

The Corporation Code allows corporations to make reasonable donations for the public welfare or for hospital, charitable, scientific, civic or similar purposes.

This action does not require prior authorization from the company's Articles of Incorporation or by-laws.

What is "reasonable" depends on the financial condition of the corporation and the circumstances that underlie the donation.

Restriction

The law wants to encourage corporations to share their wealth with the community or segment of the population that contributed to their financial success.

While companies can decide on whom to or for what purpose to give reasonable donations, politically oriented contributions are expressly disallowed.

The code states that "no corporation, domestic or foreign, shall give donations in aid of any political party or candidate or for purposes of partisan political activity."

The ban is absolute and unequivocal.

No room is given to the Commission on Elections, Securities and Exchange Commission, or any regulatory agency to relax the prohibition for one reason or another.

The interdiction is meant to prevent a situation where the candidate, in case he wins, may use the powers of his office to repay the "debt of gratitude" to the donor corporation by giving it preferential treatment in official transactions.

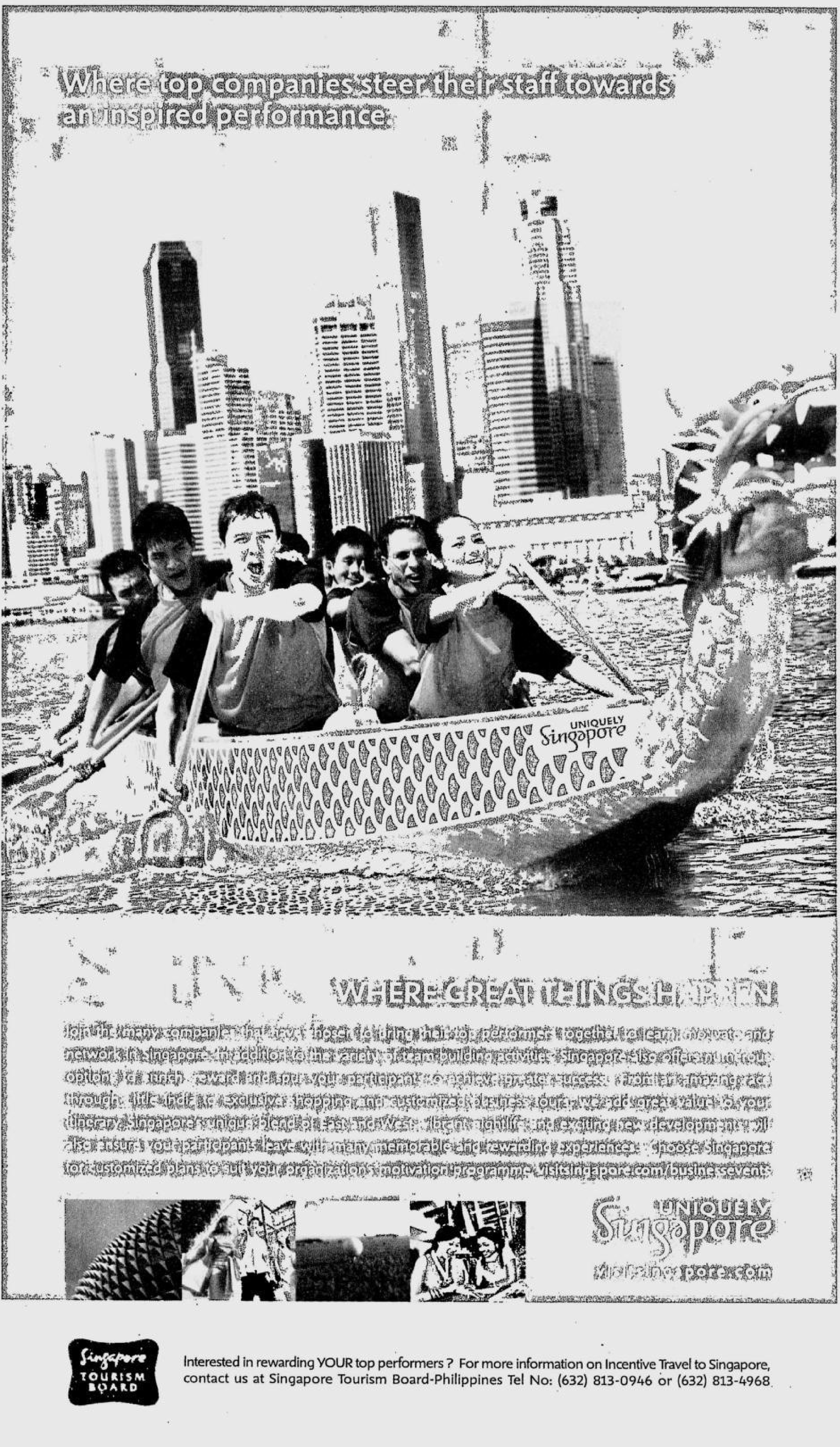
But even if political donations are verboten and could give rise to penal sanctions, it is common knowledge that some corporations do it anyway—of course, on the sly—because they are forced by circumstances or look at it as a "good investment."

It takes a lot of guts for business moguls to turn down pleas for financial support from candidates.

So if you read in the coming days that some prominent businessmen are out of the country for extended business cum vacation trips, you know why.

It's a convenient excuse for their inability to return the calls or requests for appointment by financially strapped politicians.

Like homing pigeons, the business honchos will be back after May 12. *(Feedback at rpalabrica@inquirer. com. ph)*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RAMON and Carol Chuaying

Serving Pinoys' viewing needs

MAGNAVISION INC. MARKETING MANAGER Carol Chuaying explains that in 1988, there was only one legitimate studio distributing home video products in the country. People then were not aware of the existence of pirated movies and more importantly, how to differentiate the legitimate products from the pirated ones.

Promoting the antipiracy campaign was not easy at first but the hard work eventually paid off. Starting with Hollywood big time production companies like Paramount Pictures and Universal Pictures, Magnavision Inc. grew to be a reputable company, attracting more impressive labels to their roster. In 1991, they partnered with Sony Pictures Home Entertainment, formerly known as Columbia Pictures Home Entertaiment.

"We are proud to say that the studios we represent are very much pleased with our performance that they have continued to do business with us for more than 19 years."

Magnavision Inc. was awarded Licensee of the Year for Asia by Sony Pictures Home Entertainment in 2002. Magnavision Inc. was also the consistent winner of Best Marketing for Asia for 2004 and 2005 by Dreamworks Animation Inc.

"This is a great honor considering we were competing against bigger territories such as Hong Kong, Taiwan, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and China and we were given recognition by the studios for our efforts," Chuaying says.

Chuaying also finds meaning in having a personal impact on the lives of their customers.

SERVING/ B2-3

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returns on stage /C2

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NIKKI Ventosa as Mercedes Tiongson, Jenny Jamora as Basilia Tantoco, Nathasia Garrucha as Alberta Uitangcoy (also the alternate Basilia)

Dulaang UP presents an anti-'sarswela'

Nicanor Tiongson's 'Basilia ng Malolos' reinvents and updates the art form

By Walter Ang
Contributor

AFTER HAVING DIRECTED several productions using foreign material without any "linear" plots, Dulaang UP artistic director Jose Estrella wanted to do something "with a storyline, something Filipino."

She then came across "Basilia of Malolos," a *sarswela* written by Nicanor Tiongson, and was instantly intrigued when the playwright informed her that it was actually an "anti-*sarswela*."

"It still includes the usual elements of the form like a *bida* (protagonist), *contrabidas* (antagonists), the music, and the 'morally correct' ending, but we reinterpreted and transformed, subverted even, these very elements to suit our storytelling needs," says Tiongson.

"Basilia of Malolos" deals with a group of women José Rizal had written to in 1889 to congratulate them for their petition to have a night school opened.

"That was the only thing people knew about them. That they made an innocuous, upper-class request from Governor-General Valeriano Weyler to have Spanish language classes."

There was certainly more than met the eye in their story. After writing the book "Women of Malolos," published in 2004, on the history and biographies of these women, Tiongson had gained intimate knowledge of the reach and implications of their little school.

"It wasn't just a school," he explains. This group of "feisty and intrepid" women were deeply involved in the revolution efforts of the time. They made waves big enough to warrant notice from notables like Rizal and Marcelo del Pilar.

To bring their stories to a broader audience via an art form, "the *sarswela* seemed the logical choice," says Tiongson. "Also, her time period corresponds to the beginning of this form."

Changing the form

Tiongson already has one *sarswela*, "Pilipinas Circa 1907," under his belt. It was performed in the '80s and '90s by Peta and Tanghalang Pilipino.

"This time, I explore the life of Basilia Tantoco (essayed by Jenny Jamora) and her role as a leader of the women of Malolos. In the context of the whole reform movement, the things she did were a major salvo," he says.

"When I heard the term 'anti-*sarswela*,' I had to ask what it meant," says Estrella.

However, the opportunity to reinvent and update the *sarswela* is just the kind of thing this innovative director likes to sink her teeth into.

"The material is a challenge to direct. At the basic level, there's an idea that *sarswelas* follow the love angle of the protagonists and they live happily ever after. In Basilia, the surprise comes at the end when all of that is defied and we all see what she does after that."

Tiongson hopes that audiences will ultimately be led to question long-held perceptions and notions of society and culture.

DULAANG UP/ C3

LEX Marco as Leon Tuells, Jamora, and Felix Rivera as Miguel Maglaya

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See flyers for details. Promo runs from Feb. 10 to Mar. 31, 2007. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0585. Series of 2007

SMART TAYO

NATIONAL Artist Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero's "The Woman with a White Veil" has been adapted to contemporary times.

CURTAIN call

This premier actress lights up Peta's production of 'Belong Puti' by Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero and Nonon Padilla

CB Garrucho: Back on stage

By Neni Sta. Romana Cruz
Contributor

QUITE RECENTLY, A LOVER OF theater who had studied overseas complained that she could not keep up with the cultural events in Manila. That was her left-handed compliment, for she was proud that Manila's cultural calendar was full.

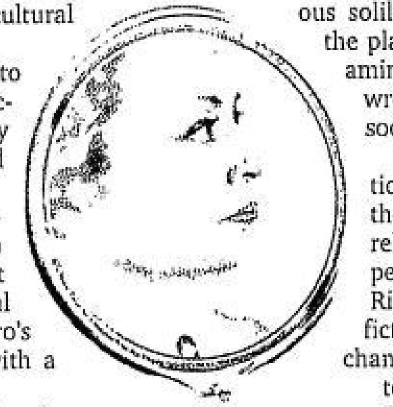
This month, a play not to be missed is Peta's production of "Belong Puti" by Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero and Nonon Padilla.

The play has been liberally revised and adapted to contemporary times, but has its origins in National Artist for Theater Guerrero's last play, "The Woman with a White Veil."

It is a comedy that probes the struggles of a playwright, Rondolf Mauricio (played by Mario O'Hara), afflicted with personal neuroses and writer's block. His wife Annella is the woman with the white veil, who has just returned from hospital confinement because of a facelift.

CB Garrucho's lovely and striking physical features are perfect for the transformation rendered by laser surgery. And that is merely the superficial summation of the theme.

Beyond the rich satirical opportunities that such an obsession with vanity opens up is the condition of today's culture: the trivialization of the self. Throughout the play, Annella behaves and assumes the studied stance of self-indulgent high-society women solely preoccupied with media exposure, social status, and restoring their lost youth through the wonders of cosmetic surgery.



GARRUCHO in white veil

Annella's lengthy and humorous soliloquy at the end of the play is also a close examination of everything wrong with Philippine society today.

True to Peta's tradition of contextualizing theater so it is always relevant, Annella's peroration begins with Rizal's two works of fiction which have changed the lives of historical figures from Bonifacio down the line. Images and events of history are referred to.

Even Lino Brocka is mentioned by name, "that nobody from Nueva Ecija," said with all affection, of course. Congress and the Senate are mentioned, too, needless to say, and in tones bereft of either respect or affection.

No one is spared in the script. As Annella is first drawn into the play from a supposed member of the audience, she is coached to act and sound like Armida Siguion-Reyna or even GMA. But with her vain and flighty preoccupations, she also mimics the fixtures in lifestyle pages.

Drastic editing

Why a Guerrero play?

Nonon Guerrero Padilla, a nephew of the late playwright, had drastically edited and rewritten two previous Guerrero plays that his uncle had approved of when permission was first sought years back.

He now felt the need to complete a trilogy of Guerrero plays. And why not, when Guerrero had been posthumously named National Artist and has the distinction of having a theater named after him in his lifetime: the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater of UP.

In the Director's Notes, Padilla has a very interesting backgrounder to the play, full of human-interest details about his uncle who was so moved by the staging of "Ulirang Tahanan" ("Forsaken House") years back that he broke down when called onstage during the curtain call.

"Belong Puti," based on the last play of Guerrero, also includes his very first play, "Half an Hour in the Convent," in the entirely new Act III that Padilla chose to add. And from the audience's overwhelming response, he did his playwright uncle proud.

To the question of what of the original remains in the current production, Padilla is forthright. "Ulirang Tahanan" may be considered the only original play in his trilogy of Guerrero plays.

CAST includes Lou Veloso, Mario O'Hara, CB Garrucho, Sherry Lara, Joan Orendain.

"Sawi" is Padilla's fantasy takeoff on the original "Frustrations," and "Belong Puti" is "my imaginary doctoral thesis in themes Guerrero."

Amusing techniques that charmed the audience included the announcement of the intermission between acts through a cell-phone call, and the concert performance of Annella's *amigas*, all garbed in black (for the death scene and as members of a musical group) miming with gusto their Mozart classical number.

The play synopsis in the program is presented as a typed-out manuscript full of revisions.

One regrets that despite the marvelous performances of O'Hara, Garrucho and Lou Veloso, and the overall excellent acting of the rest of the cast, not all of the lines were consistently audible. It was such a pity because the comedy was punctuated with much wit.

Heartwarming

It was heartwarming to see a packed Peta–Phinma Theater on a Friday night performance. But we were told not to be deceived by the impressive turnout because, as Peta stalwart and administrator Beng Santos-Cabangon put it, it is always a marketing challenge to draw audiences to the theater.

A happy turn of events is that certain schools have made theater an indispensable requirement of their curriculum.

Peta productions always make one feel so proud of Philippine theater, so proud to be Filipino, because of their imagination and creativity and the relentless effort to show what our theater community is capable of. And, of course, the rich Philippine material it chooses to work on each time.

"Belong Puti" is on its final run on March 2, 2:30 p.m./7:30 p.m.; March 3-4, 2 p.m./7 p.m. Call 7256244, 7218604, 0917-5394707, 0917-8154567.

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Call for new Tanghalang Pilipino actors-scholars

THE ONLY PROFESSIONAL FULL-TIME acting company in the country is in need of new members, apprentices and scholars.

Tanghalang Pilipino will conduct auditions for its Actors' Company March 10-11, 1-5 p.m., at the CCP Bulwagang Amado Hernandez, Upper Basement, Tanghalang Pambansa, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

Auditionees must be at least 18 years old and have completed a two-year diploma or certificate course or earned a four-year college degree. Submit resumé with two photos (a 2"x2" head shot and a 3"x5" full-body shot) and be prepared to perform a three-minute monologue in Filipino from a published foreign or local play, any song in Filipino, and a short movement piece. A compact disc player will be provided for those who may need it.

Those who pass the auditions will be required to participate in an intermediate acting workshop during the Tanghalang Pilipino Summer Theater Adventure April 10-May 6.

Thereafter, as many as 20 participants will be offered to be part of the Actors Company from June 2007 to March 2008. During the year, they will attend regular classes in acting, stage movement, voice and script analysis. They will also be given the opportunity to participate in Tanghalang Pilipino's 21st Theater Season productions at the Cultural Center of the Philippines and other performances outside the CCP.

Among those who have been members of the Actors Company are Fernando Josef, Nonie Buencamino, Connie Chua, Shamaine Centenera Buencamino, Allan Bautista, Irma Adlawan, John Arcilla, RJ Leyran, Olga Natividad, Allan Paule, Ony de Leon, Gary Lim, George de Jesus III, Roeder Camanag, Tess Jamias, Joey Paras, Nazer Salcedo, Marj Lorico and Herbie Go.

Call Tanghalang Pilipino at 8323661/8321125 locals 1620 or 1621, or e-mail ccptanghalan@yahoo.com.

TANGHALANG Pilipino actors

Dulaang UP presents an anti-'sarswela'

From page C1

"We want people to examine the roles that society assigns them. How the colonial rulers and the feudal elite, with their patriarchy and oppression, have given us customs and beliefs that we hold as 'natural' and 'Filipino.' But are they really as natural and Filipino as we think they are?"

Tall order

Tiongson's desired results are a tall order, "But I have 100-percent trust in Jose. She's a very intelligent and original director."

To this end, and to further deconstruct the usual devices of the *sarswela*, Estrella collaborated with musical director Joy Marfil to retool the music of the songs to highlight the struggles of the characters. The objective is that, unlike the pretty melodies and *kundimans* of romantic *sarswelas*, the music for this anti-*sarswela* must not overpower the ideas conveyed by the lyrics.

Estrella finds excitement in overseeing the development of the production's different elements.

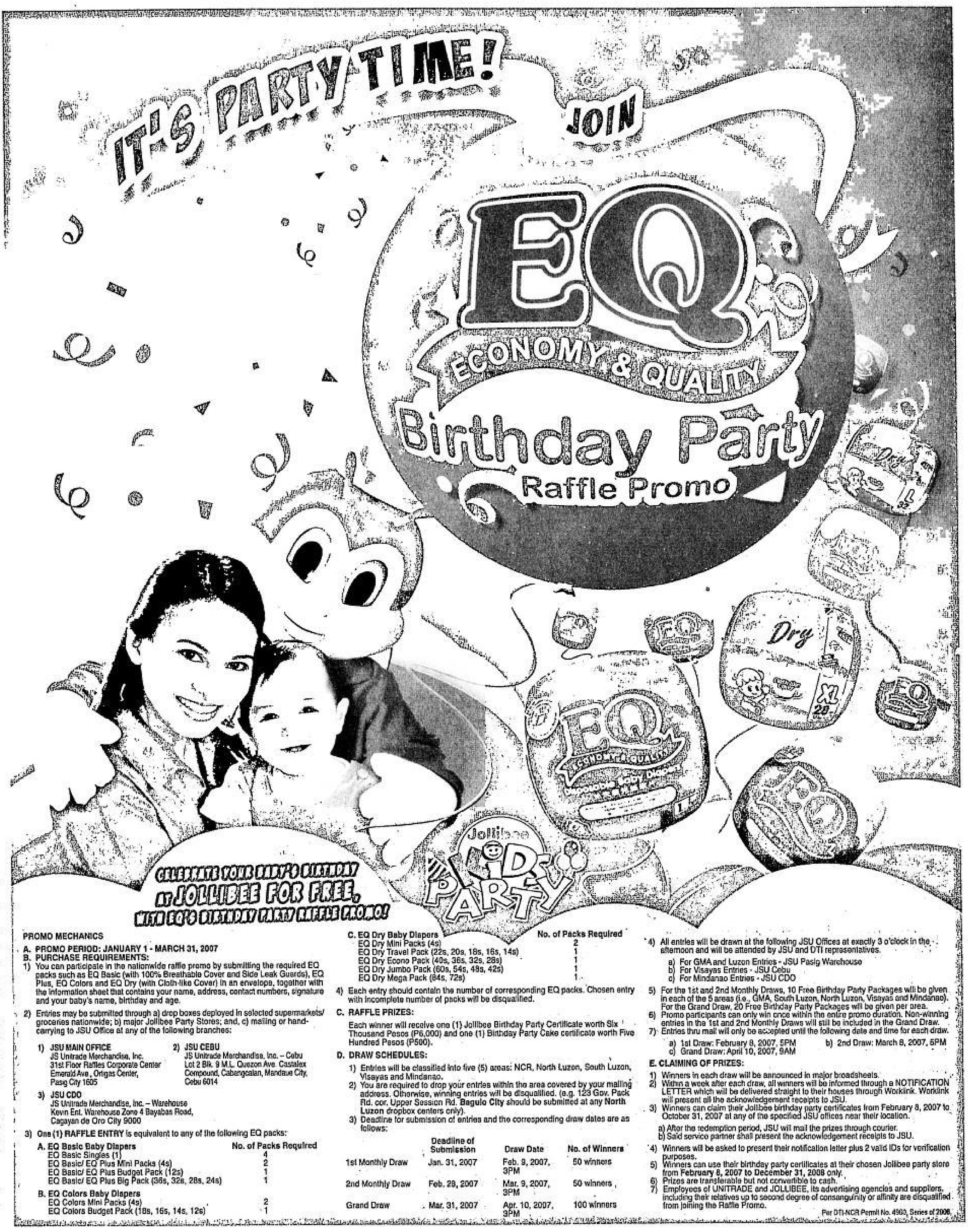
"I like directing stories that have movement and songs. It's an interesting way to tell the story of Basilia, of feminist ideals, of equal rights. I want to give the audience a different way of looking at it all," she says.

Executing this vision has attracted collaborators that include Dexter Santos for choreography, John Abul for costume design, Ludendorffo Decenteceo for set design, John Batalla for light design, and Mele Yamomo for video design.

And because the scope of Basilia's active life extends well into the 1920s, many years after the end of the revolution against Spain, "most of the cast and staff have to do double and triple roles. It's really epic!" says Estrella.

"But I staged it as simply as I could so that it's easy to follow. There's a contemporary touch to the staging to make it accessible and familiar."

"Basilia ng Malolos" runs until March 4 in Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater, Palma Hall, University of the Philippines. Call 9261349 loc. 2449.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EQ Dry Econo Pack (40s, 36s, 32s, 28s)	1
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EQ Dry Mega Pack (84s, 72s)	1

4) Each entry should contain the number of corresponding EQ packs. Chosen entry with incomplete number of packs will be disqualified.

C. RAFFLE PRIZES:

Each winner will receive one (1) Jollibee Birthday Party Certificate worth Six Thousand Pesos (P6,000) and one (1) Birthday Party Cake certificate worth Five Hundred Pesos (P500).

D. DRAW SCHEDULES:

1) Entries will be classified into five (5) areas: NCR, North Luzon, South Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.
2) You are required to drop your entries within the area covered by your mailing address. Otherwise, winning entries will be disqualified. (e.g. 123 Gov. Pack Rd. cor. Upper Session Rd. Baguio City should be submitted at any North Luzon dropbox centers only).
3) Deadline for submission of entries and the corresponding draw dates are as follows:

	Deadline of Submission	Draw Date	No. of Winners
1st Monthly Draw	Jan. 31, 2007	Feb. 9, 2007, 3PM	50 winners
2nd Monthly Draw	Feb. 28, 2007	Mar. 9, 2007, 3PM	50 winners
Grand Draw	Mar. 31, 2007	Apr. 10, 2007, 3PM	100 winners

4) All entries will be drawn at the following JSU Offices at exactly 3 o'clock in the afternoon and will be attended by JSU and DTI representatives.
a) For GMA and Luzon Entries - JSU Pasig Warehouse
b) For Visayas Entries - JSU Cebu
c) For Mindanao Entries - JSU CDO
5) For the 1st and 2nd Monthly Draws, 10 Free Birthday Party Packages will be given in each of the 5 areas (i.e., GMA, South Luzon, North Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao). For the Grand Draw, 20 Free Birthday Party Packages will be given per area.
6) Promo participants can only win once within the entire promo duration. Non-winning entries in the 1st and 2nd Monthly Draws will still be included in the Grand Draw.
7) Entries thru mail will only be accepted until the following date and time for each draw.
a) 1st Draw: February 8, 2007, 5PM
b) 2nd Draw: March 8, 2007, 5PM
c) Grand Draw: April 10, 2007, 9AM

E. CLAIMING OF PRIZES:

1) Winners in each draw will be announced in major broadsheets.
2) Within a week after each draw, all winners will be informed through a NOTIFICATION LETTER which will be delivered straight to their houses through Worklink. Worklink will present all the acknowledgement receipts to JSU.
3) Winners can claim their Jollibee birthday party certificates from February 8, 2007 to October 31, 2007 at any of the specified JSU offices near their location.
a) After the redemption period, JSU will mail the prizes through courier.
b) Said service partner shall present the acknowledgement receipts to JSU.
4) Winners will be asked to present their notification letter plus 2 valid IDs for verification purposes.
5) Winners can use their birthday party certificates at their chosen Jollibee party store from February 8, 2007 to December 31, 2008 only.
6) Prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash.
7) Employees of UNITRADE and JOLLIBEE, its advertising agencies and suppliers, including their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the Raffle Promo.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4903, Series of 2006.

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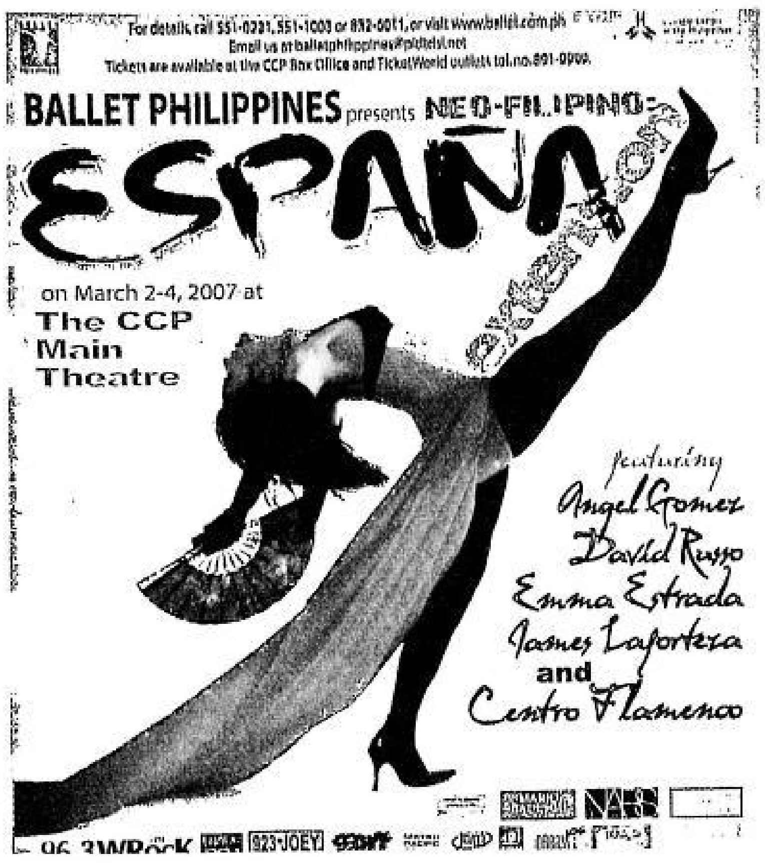
For details, call 551-0221, 551-1003 or 832-6011, or visit www.ballet.com.ph
Email us at balletphilippines@pldtdsl.net
Tickets are available at the CCP Box Office and TicketWorld outlets tel.no.891-9999.

BALLET PHILIPPINES presents NEO-FILIPINO: ESPAÑA extension

on March 2-4, 2007 at The CCP Main Theatre

featuring Angel Gomez, David Russo, Emma Estrada, James Laforteza and Centro Flamenco

Ballet Philippines celebrates Pinoy's Spanish roots

BALLET PHILIPPINES CAPS ITS 37TH SEASON with "Neo-Filipino: España Extension," which celebrates the Latin roots of Filipino culture.

"The title embraces several interpretations," said Bam Damian, BP artistic director and choreographer. "First, it is any, extended adaptation of what is indigenously Spanish; second, being under the Spaniards for more than 300 years, we have imbibed a flavor of the Spanish culture into our life; third, it's a straightforward recall of a recognized Manila avenue—the current E. Rodriguez road, which was formerly known as España Extension."

Damian especially creates "Carmen: A Trilogy," a condensed and updated 20-minute ballet based on the hour-long opera by George Bizet.

Other choreographies that will have their world premiere in "España Extension" are "Cucurrucucu Paloma" by Caetano Veloso and "State of No Mind" by Alden Lugnasin, with music by Nuevas Cruzes; "Desseo" by David Russo, with music from "Yerma" by Gerardo Nuñez; and "El Bolero Blanco" by James Laforteza.

BP's roster of ballet superstars—Candice Adea, Biag Gaongen, Angel Gabriel, Hannedy Sala and Carrisa Adea—will perform.

There will be special appearances by BP board chairman Tony Cojuangco and president Maan Hontiveros in the show's overture, "Andalucia."

Performances are on March 2 (8 p.m.), March 3 (3 p.m., 8 p.m.) and March 4 (3 p.m.) at the Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (Main Theater) of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Call 551-0221, 551-1003 or 832-6011 (Mavic Lipat); 891-9999 (Ticket World); and 832-1125 locals 1405, 1406, 1409 (CCP box-office).

Russian pianist's Manila debut

RUSSIAN PIANIST SERGEY Kutznetsov, prizewinner of the Cleveland International Piano Competition, the Concours Geza Anda (Zurich) and the Alicia de Laroccha Competition (Spain) will debut in Manila on May 7, at the Philamlife Theater.

The program: Beethoven's Sonata No. 27 in E Minor, Op. 90, Tchaikovsky's Scherzo Humoristic (Humoristic Scherzo) and "Meditation" Op. 72, No. 5, Ravel's Gaspard de la nuit, Scriabin's Sonata No. 3 in F Sharp Minor, Op 23 and Chopin's Sonata No. 3 in B Minor, Op. 58.

The recital is sponsored by the Philippine American Life Insurance Company. Call 9007023 or 0906-5104270.

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Dawn Zulueta Lagdameo

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Mommy moments with Dawn

Motherhood truly becomes celebrity Mom Dawn Zulueta-Lagdameo. After years of patiently waiting to be blessed with a child of her own, Dawn and her businessman husband Anton Lagdameo finally got their wish last 2005 when Jacobo finally came into their lives.

The gift could not have come at a better time, the stunning mom quipped, although she admits it was the most pleasant surprise. Having set aside all hopes of becoming a parent for the time being, Dawn decided to resume her television career while quietly living in Davao City with her husband. Imagine her surprise one morning when she found out that finally, she was on the family way.

Though riding high with a successful career comeback, what truly inspires Dawn is her new role as mother to one year-old Jacobo "I love motherhood! It is all that I hoped for. What I especially like most about it is the journey that even I, the parent, go through just by watching my son grow and progress. It is exciting to see a 'little you' growing right before your eyes. It does give me much emotional & spiritual introspection that I find as gratifying as a human being. The part about motherhood that I least like right now would only be that I am sleeping less," she said.

In addition, since she wants to cherish every moment of her motherhood, Dawn is bent on actively taking her role seriously. "I am quite hands on, especially when I am on a break from work. When I have shooting schedules and such, I need to sleep early and undisturbed. So Jacobo has his trusted nanny to watch over him, give him his milk bottle during night feedings and give him his bath in the morning, but soon as I get even just a couple of days off from work, I takeover. Anton does what he can when he is at home, too. Like tending to Jacobo during playtime so the nanny and I can get some other chores done."

She admits that she needed assistance during Jacobo's first few months, especially since her son, was prematurely born. "I had a neo-natal nurse live with us for the first month that Jacobo was home from the hospital. Since Jacobo was born 2 months early, I had to take extra care with him. Everything from the way he was fed and bathed was down with utmost care. He was so tiny, only 4.5 lbs. And being a first time mom, I was so eager to do everything on my own. I read up on books and observed whatever the nurse did with Jacobo so I could gain more confidence in nursing him. I did not even have a nanny available yet since Jacobo was born earlier than expected. I was training a house girl while I myself was still being trained! It paid off in the end since I am not as dependent on a nanny when it comes to caring for Jacobo."

With Jacobo lording over their utmost attention, life has truly changed for Dawn and Anton. "For one, we rarely spend weekend nights out anymore. Anton and I look forward to free time from our busy work schedules to spend it with Jacobo. Especially in the evenings when it is time for Jacobo to go to bed, Anton and I make it a point to put him to sleep in our bedroom. When he is fast asleep already, we transfer him back to his nursery so he has his crib space all to himself. It is only after this that we are able to have our time to catch up on what each other's day was like. We've never been happier as a couple. Even if having a child lessens time spent on ourselves, we cherish every moment we get just watching our son grow."

Nowadays the family has been extra busy shuttling between Davao and Manila and back, since the lovely Mom also happens to be a one of the country's most credible product endorser. "I am in Manila almost twice a month doing TV work, magazine shoots or tvc filming and other contractual commitments. My husband, Anton and I are currently planning to buy a home in Manila within the next 2 years as we are preparing for Jacobo to start schooling there. We will still maintain our Davao home since Anton's work is based here."

And while a lot of product companies expressed their interest in tapping her for endorsement, Dawn and her manager carefully study every proposal before giving their go-signal. "I am always flattered by the endorsement inquiries I receive, I also take the time to study the products well before I think of accepting the offer. For example, I was thrilled when Jacobo's pediatrician said that GAIN PLUS ADVANCE was the right milk formula for him to switch to after Jacobo turned one. Even if there were other formulas available in the market, I made sure that our pedia recommended the right one for my son. It is perfect in the sense that GAIN PLUS ADVANCE encompasses all my expectations in a milk formula to help Jacobo's developmental progress. I will not endorse any product I don't believe in."

Like most moms, Dawn is thrilled to high heavens whenever she catches Jacobo displaying such early learning skills. "Ever since he was just 6 months he loves company, especially the company of other kids. I used to have to peel him off the seat of the airplane whenever we took our flights because he is just so friendly. He loves to smile and wave "hello" to other passengers on board. When I introduce a new person to him, he will be wary at first. But once he sees me being accommodating to the stranger, he will warm up and begin to babble and smile back. He also tries to repeat words that I say, especially when I teach him about numbers and colors. He points to any object he becomes curious with. So I name the object that he points to, then he looks back to me as if to read my lips. I repeat the name of the object, then he tries to pronounce it. As early as now, I also give Jacobo the liberty of choosing the outfit he wants to wear or what DVD he wants to watch. He learns confidence in himself this way, and this interaction will always fuel his enthusiasm to keep on learning. Just the other day he learned that flowers were best suited to be given to his mama. I was so delighted when, without any adult coaxing, he asked his nanny to cut the flower from the stem and he took it, walked over to me and handed it to me. When he saw how happy that made me, he clapped his hands! I guess even he knows who deserves the applause in that situation."

ADVT.

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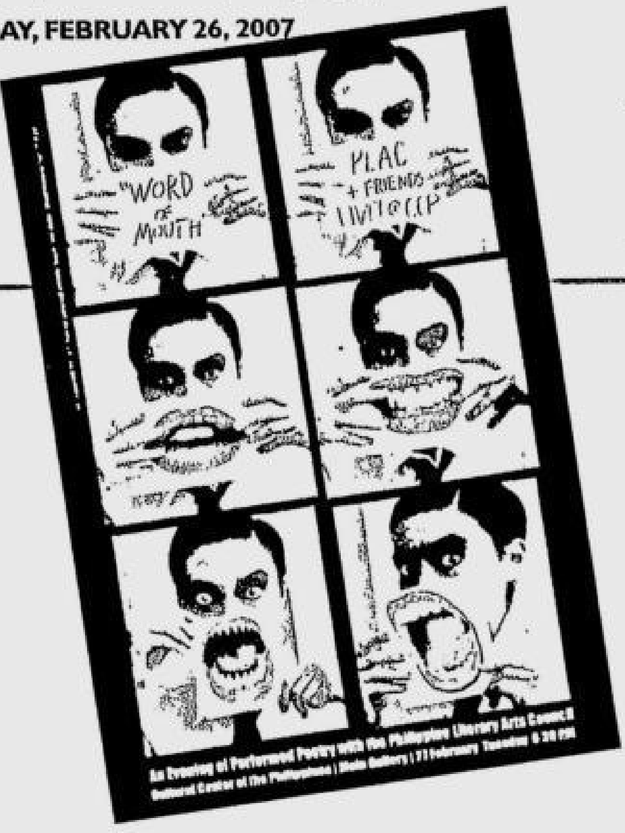
'Word of Mouth' closes 'Chromatext' exhibit at CCP


"WORD OF MOUTH"
PLAC + FRIENDS LIVE@CCP
An Evening of Performed Poetry with the Philippine Literary Arts Council
Cultural Center of the Philippines | Main Gallery | 27 February Tuesday 6 30 PM

A SESSION of performed poetry billed as "Word of Mouth" serves as the closing event for the landmark "Chromatext Reloaded" exhibit that has been on display for over a month at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) Main Gallery.

Mounted by the Philippine Literary Arts Council (PLAC), the exhibit that integrates the written word with visual art comes to a fitting close tomorrow, Feb. 27, with readings and performances by PLAC and Friends starting 6:30 p.m.

Headlining the program is a sterling assembly of seasoned literary performance artists, poets and musicians led by PLAC members Jimmy Abad, Krip Yuson, Cesare A.X. Syjuco, RayVi Sunico and Marne Kilates.

They will be joined by fellow poets Marivic Rufino, Joel Toledo, Carlomar Arcangel Daoana and Angelo Suarez; as well as a dynamic mix of multimedia artists, spoken-word groups and young musicians.

The performers include the notable dramatist Frank Rivera, painters Rock Drilon, Alan Rivera and Danny Sillada; Raul Funilas, GP Abrajano, Nityalila Sauro, Siege Malvar, Trix Syjuco, Jevijoe Vitug, Yanna Verbo Acosta, Lorina Javier, Ria Muñoz, underground hip-hop group Ampon; Vim Nadera and Friends; Maxine Syjuco and Utakan; When Wor(l)ds Collide (with Twinkle, Gino, Otto and Happy Ferraren); Controlled Chaos (with Ronaldo Ruiz and The Tupada

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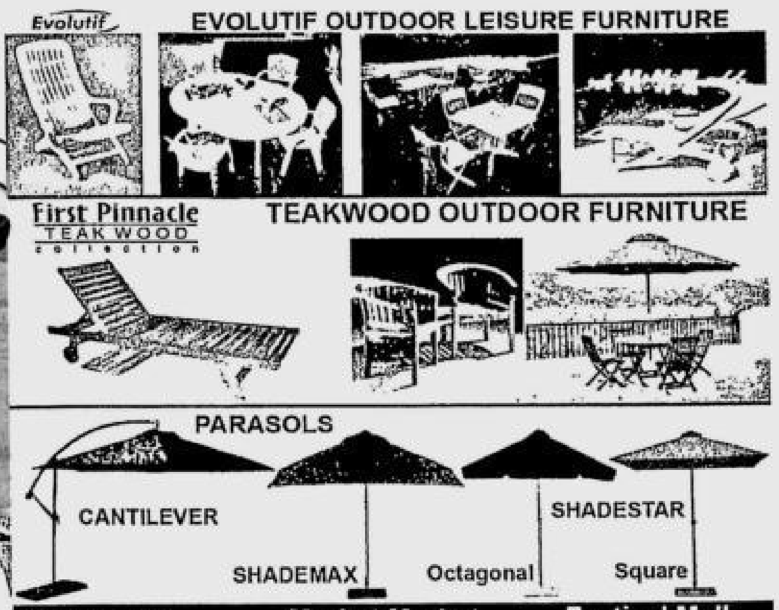
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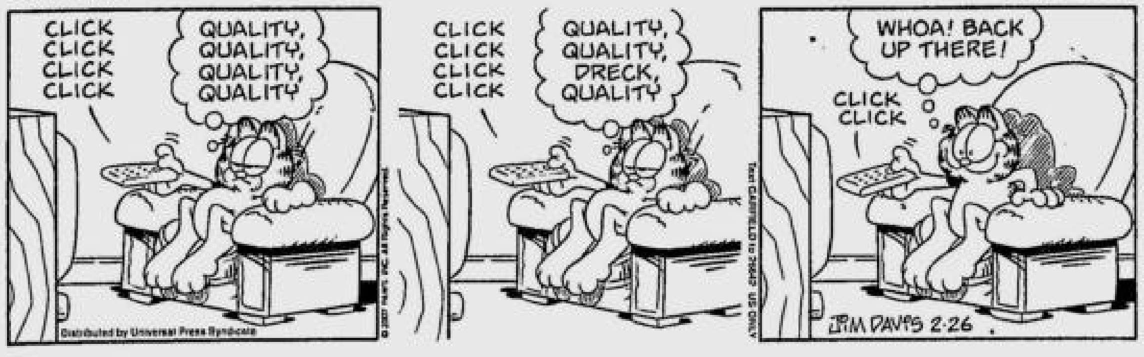
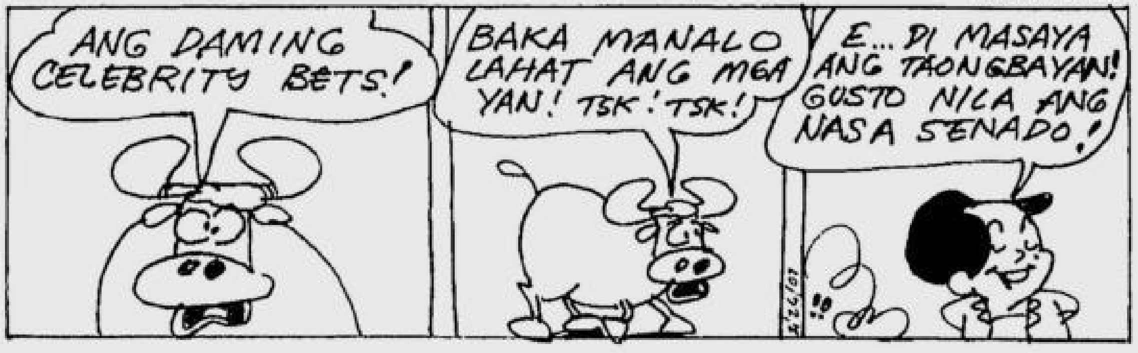
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK
QUALITY, QUALITY, QUALITY, QUALITY
CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK
QUALITY, QUALITY, DRECK, QUALITY
WHOA! BACK UP THERE!
CLICK CLICK
JIM DAVIS 2-26
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

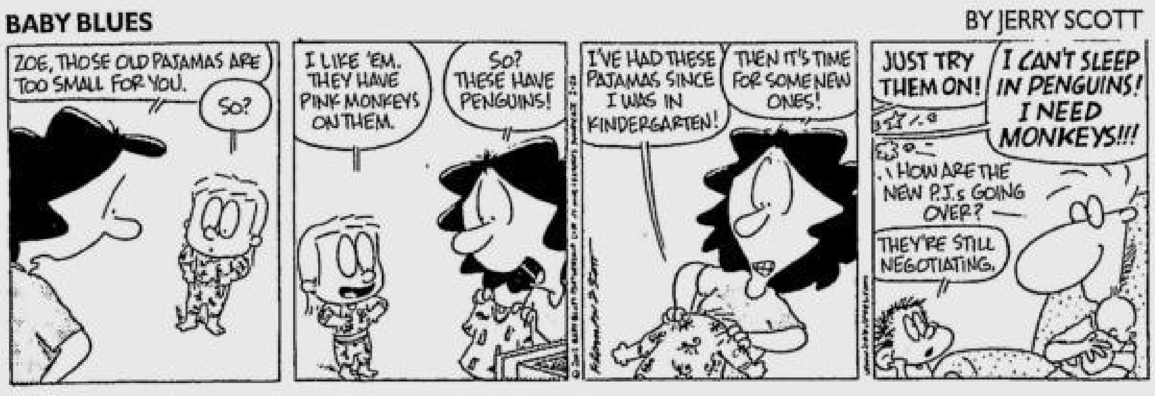
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANG DAMING CELEBRITY BETS!
BAKA MANALO LAHAT ANG MGA YAN! TSK! TSK!
E... DI MASAYA ANG TAONGBAYAN! GUSTO NILA ANG NASA SENADO!
2-26-07

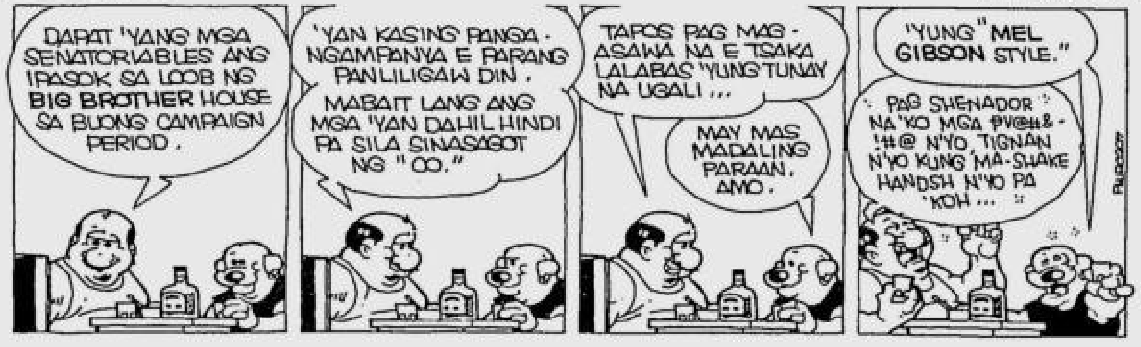
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


ZOE, THOSE OLD PAJAMAS ARE TOO SMALL FOR YOU.
SO?
I LIKE 'EM. THEY HAVE PINK MONKEYS ON THEM.
SO? THESE HAVE PENGUINS!
I'VE HAD THESE PAJAMAS SINCE I WAS IN KINDERGARTEN!
THEN IT'S TIME FOR SOME NEW ONES!
JUST TRY THEM ON!
I CAN'T SLEEP IN PENGUINS! I NEED MONKEYS!!!
HOW ARE THE NEW P.J.s GOING OVER?
THEY'RE STILL NEGOTIATING.

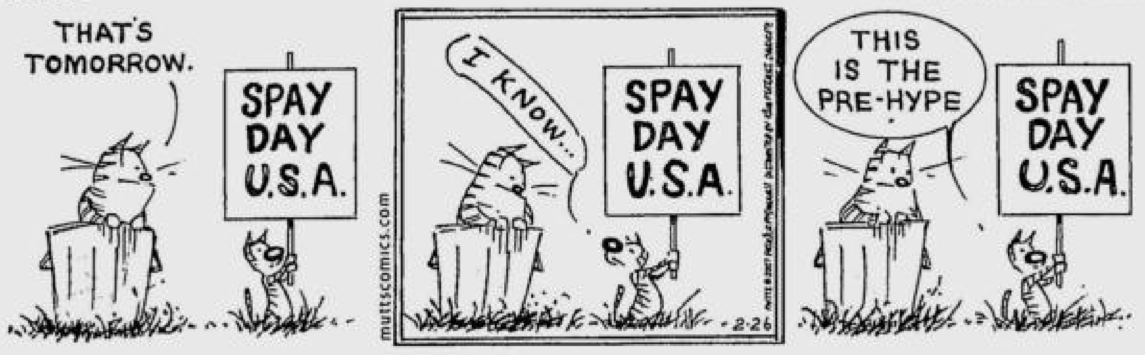
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


DAPAT 'YANG MGA SENATORIABLES ANG IPASOK SA LOOB NG BIG BROTHER HOUSE SA BUONG CAMPAIGN PERIOD.
'YAN KASING PANGANGAMPANYA E PARANG PANLILIGAW DIN.
MABAIT LANG ANG MGA 'YAN DAHIL HINDI PA SILA SINASAGOT NG "OO."
TAPOS PAG MAG-ASAWA NA E TSAKA LALABAS 'YUNG TUNAY NA UGALI...
MAY MAS MADALING PARAAN, AMO.
'YUNG "MEL GIBSON STYLE."
PAG SHENADOR NA 'KO MGA PV@#&-!#@ N'YO, TIGNAN N'YO KUNG MA-SHAKE HANDSH N'YO PA 'KOH...

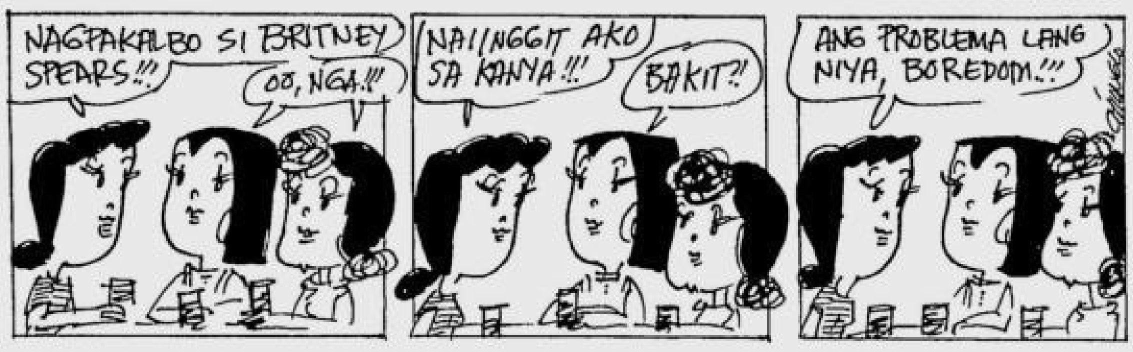
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


THAT'S TOMORROW.
SPAY DAY U.S.A.
I KNOW...
SPAY DAY U.S.A.
THIS IS THE PRE-HYPE
SPAY DAY U.S.A.
muttscomics.com
2-26

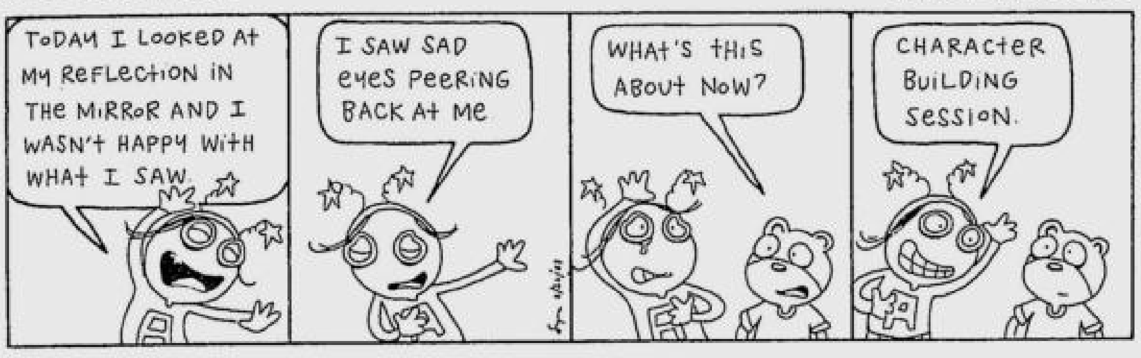
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NAGPAKALBO SI BRITNEY SPEARS!!!
OO, NGA!!!
NAIINGGIT AKO SA KANYA!!!
BAKIT?!
ANG PROBLEMA LANG NIYA, BOREDOM!!!

ATOMO AND WEBOY

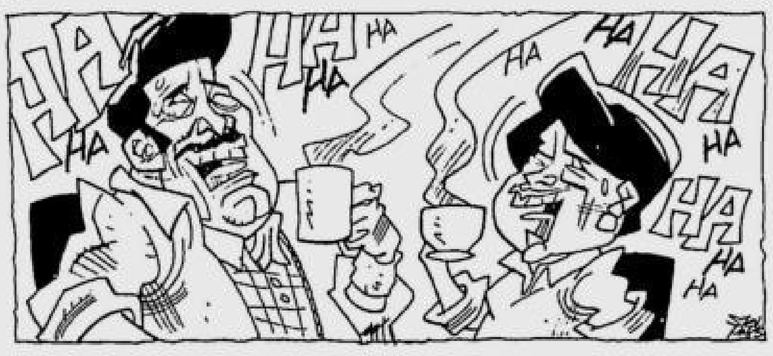
BY LYRA GARCELLANO


TODAY I LOOKED AT MY REFLECTION IN THE MIRROR AND I WASN'T HAPPY WITH WHAT I SAW.
I SAW SAD EYES PEERING BACK AT ME
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT NOW?
CHARACTER BUILDING SESSION.

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS

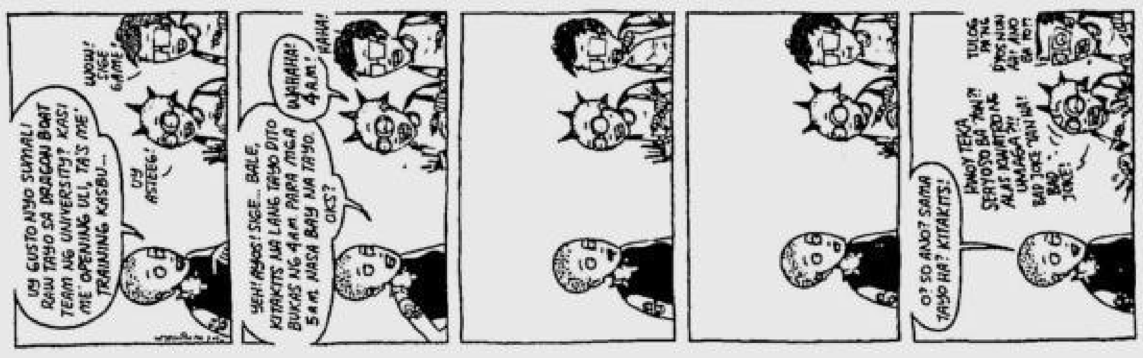
**TANONG:
BAKIT
TUMATAWA
ERAP AT
SI GMA?**


HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

**SAGOT:
TINA-
TAWANAN
KASI NILA
ANG MGA
SABI-SABI
NA ANG
ELEKSYON SA
MAYO AY
LABANAN
LANG SA
PAGITAN
NILANG
DALAWA**

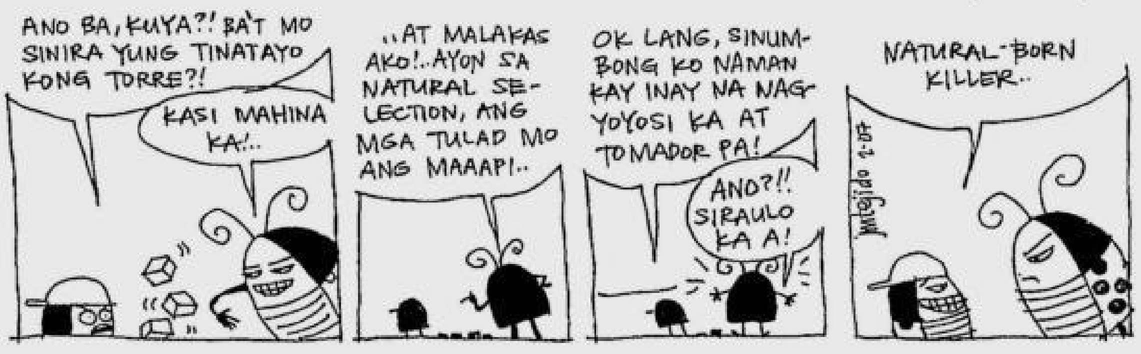
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


UY GUSTO N'YO SUMALI! RAW TAYO SA DRAGON BOAT TEAM NG UNIVERSITY! KASI ME' OPENING ULI, TAS ME' TRAINING KASBU...
UY ASTEEG!
WOW! SIGE GAME!
YEH! AYOS! SIGE... BALE, KITAKITS NA LANG TAYO DITO BUKAS NG 4A.M. PARA MGA 5A.M. NASA BAY NA TAYO. OKS?
WAHAHA! 4AM!
HAHA!
O? SO ANO? SAMA TAYO HA? KITAKITS!
WOY TEKA, SERYOSO BA 'YAN?! ALAS KWATRO NG UMAGA?! BAD JOKE 'YAN HA!
BAD JOKE!

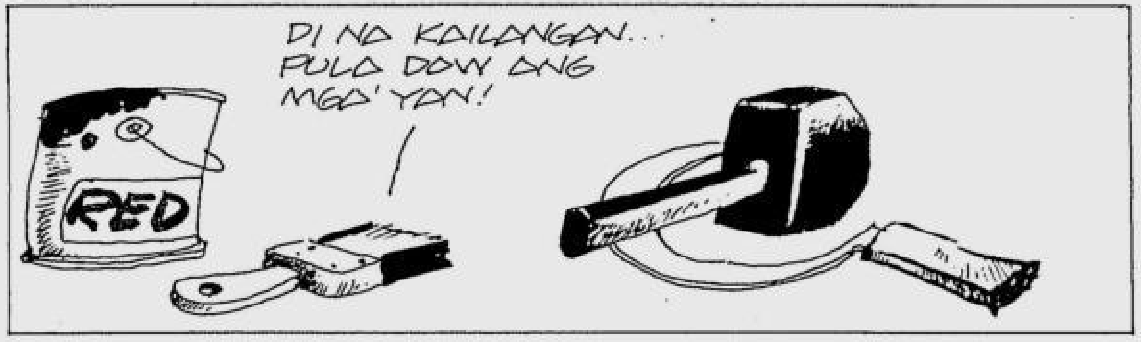
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANO BA, KUYA?! BA'T MO SINIRA YUNG TINATAYO KONG TORRE?!
KASI MAHINA KA!..
..AT MALAKAS AKO!..AYON SA NATURAL SELECTION, ANG MGA TULAD MO ANG MAAAPI..
OK LANG, SINUMBONG KO NAMAN KAY INAY NA NAG-YOYOSI KA AT TOMADOR PA!
ANO?!! SIRAULO KA A!
NATURAL-BORN KILLER..

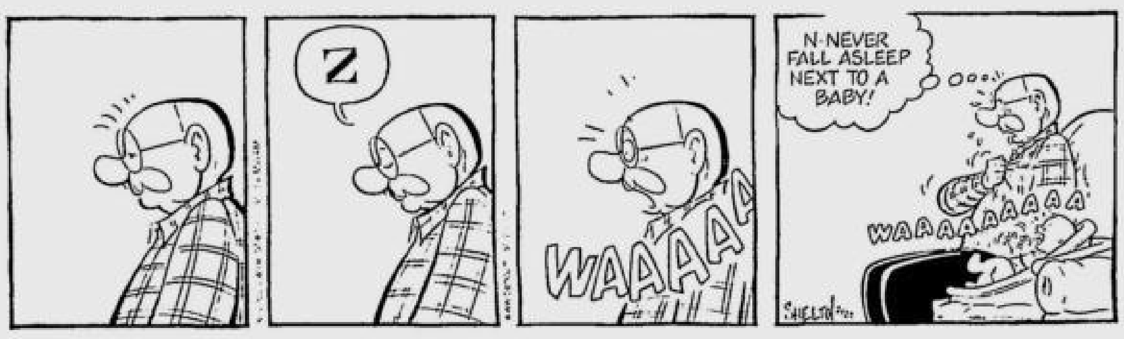
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

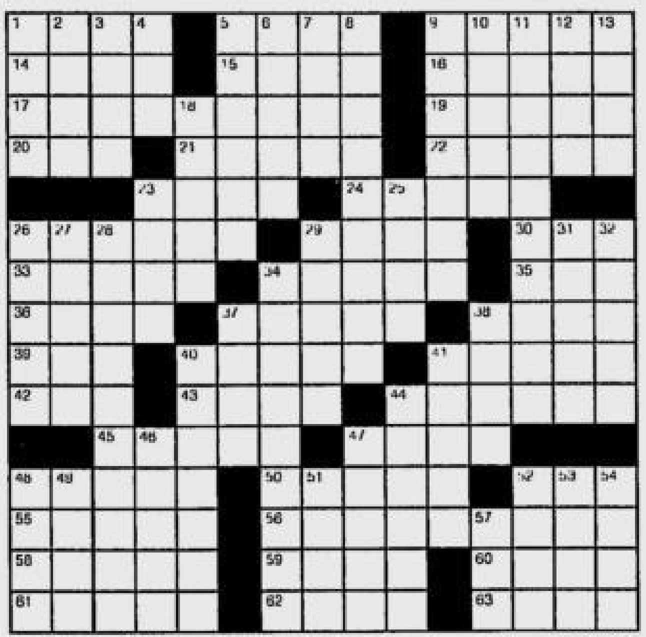

DI NA KAILANGAN... PULA DAW ANG MGA 'YAN!
RED

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


Z
WAAAAA
N-NEVER FALL ASLEEP NEXT TO A BABY!
WAAAAAAAAA

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Norma Steinberg
San Francisco, CA
2/26/07

ACROSS
1 Shape
5 Big stinger
9 Beat it!
14 Flapjack chain
15 Foot structure
16 Fountain of three coins
17 Unnamed source
19 Madras money
20 LBJ's VP
21 Ducklike birds
22 Embellish
23 Part of speech
24 Near the center
26 Play text
29 Desert Storm missile
30 Def. mil. grp.
33 Suspension of hostilities
34 Salome's costume
35 Period
36 City on the Tiber
37 Venetian byway
38 New tube
39 Year in Uruguay
40 Hairdresser's place
41 Misrepresent
42 Part of rpm
43 Bahrain leader
44 Got in the game
45 Loathed
47 Speak indistinctly
48 Table runner
50 Fancy tie
52 Ram's partner
55 Proverbial weeper
56 Unnamed source
58 Offer a view
59 "__ kleine Nachtmusik"
60 Seaweed
61 Midler or Davis
62 High-tailed it
63 Exclusively

DOWN
1 Catch some rays?
2 Anticipatory cry
3 Type of IRA
4 Dashboard info
5 Exit
6 Torch's crime
7 Read quickly
8 Doctor
9 Maroons
10 Unpolished
11 Unnamed source
12 Swear
13 Comportment
18 Run off to marry
23 Pleasant
25 Void's partner?
26 Thong
27 Old hag
28 Unnamed source
29 Man of La Mancha
31 Clarinetist Shaw
32 Gave in
34 Corroborates
37 Arrived
38 Eavesdrop successfully
40 Release
41 Popeye's nemesis
44 Tilled
46 __ we all?
47 Setting
48 Neatnik's opposite
49 Handle somehow
51 Mayflower, for one
52 Adam's address
53 Columnist George
54 Spot
57 "Citizen Kane" studio

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

P	L	E	B	E	■	G	L	U	E	■	M	B	A	S
L	E	M	O	N	D	R	O	P	S	■	C	A	P	P
O	N	I	O	N	R	I	N	G	S	■	E	D	I	E
W	O	R	N	O	U	T	■	R	A	I	N	M	A	N
■	■	■	I	B	I	S	■	A	Y	N	R	A	N	D
S	H	I	E	L	D	■	E	D	I	S	O	N	■	■
T	E	N	S	E	■	G	L	I	S	T	E	N	E	D
A	R	T	■	■	G	R	A	N	T	■	■	E	R	E
B	O	O	M	E	R	A	N	G	■	F	O	R	G	E
■	■	L	E	G	E	N	D	■	F	O	L	S	O	M
E	M	E	R	G	E	D	■	F	O	R	D	■	■	■
M	A	R	C	O	N	I	■	A	U	G	U	S	T	A
A	L	A	I	■	B	O	O	K	R	E	V	I	E	W
G	E	N	E	■	A	S	S	I	S	T	A	N	C	E
S	S	T	S	■	Y	E	A	R	■	S	I	G	H	S

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2/26/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: Because you're sympathetic and empathetic, you know how to arouse emotions and feelings in others. Although you need a lot of stimulation in your life, you often work alone. Perhaps this is how you know how to strike a common chord with others. The year ahead is definitely the time to start new ventures and explore new directions.
Birthdate of: Johnny Cash, musician; Michael Bolton, singer; Fats Domino, musician.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): The start of any week is often busy and sometimes glum. (Mondays are not easy.) No matter what you're doing, focus on home, family and your domestic scene today.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You start off this week hitting the pavement running. You have so much to do! Don't be afraid to ask for help from others, especially VIPs, bosses and parents.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Today your attention turns to money and finances. Make friends with your bank account. Find out just how much money you don't have.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Today the Moon is in your sign. Although this makes you a bit more emotional than usual, it also gives you an edge over all the other signs. Ask for whatever you want.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You need to find some quiet time today. You want to pull your act together and figure out what you want to accomplish this week. Why not make a list?

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): A friend needs your attention now. Perhaps this person wants to confide in you. Perhaps you need to confide in someone. Hmmm.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This might be a good day to talk to your boss (or a parent or teacher or any other authority figure in your life). Parents might want to discuss children

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're unusually aggressive in all your communications with others now. Why not use this aggression to pursue further education today? Learn something new.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): It's a busy time for you. You're running around doing errands and taking short trips. This is a good day to tie up loose ends with bills and taxes.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Conversations with partners are important today. Someone needs a little attention and stroking. Be a good friend and listen with sincerity and concern.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): The planets are set up quite lovely today for you to start the week off. You're in the mood to work. In particular, you want to get better organized so that you feel more in control of everything. (Great!)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Take a mental-health day if you can. Today you would rather play than work. However, most likely you do have to work. (Just fake it till you make it.)

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

3	8	2					9	1
1			3	5				2
				2				4
			2		3		8	
	6	7		9		2	1	
	4		8		7			
7				4				
4				8	6			9
9	2					6	4	5

Difficulty Level ★
2/26

2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

4	9	7	1	3	2	6	8	5
5	2	6	4	7	8	3	9	1
8	3	1	9	6	5	7	4	2
3	1	8	7	2	6	9	5	4
7	6	5	8	4	9	1	2	3
9	4	2	3	5	1	8	7	6
1	7	4	5	9	3	2	6	8
2	8	9	6	1	4	5	3	7
6	5	3	2	8	7	4	1	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

High-society mag features Floirendo heiresses, Piolo Pascual

METRO Society
Exclusive!
The Name and the Fame
Society and showbiz royals Monica and Gabbi Floirendo and Piolo Pascual
MEN OF STYLE 2007
Plus:
Revive the youthful glow and romance in your life

FOR THE COVER OF ITS first issue in 2007, Metro Society, ABS-CBN Publishing's chronicler of the lives of the privileged set, brings together the most successful actor in Philippine entertainment, Piolo Pascual, and the elusive young society muses Monica and Gabrielle Floirendo, the daughters of former Miss Universe Margie Moran and Davao Rep. Tony Boy Floirendo.

The accompanying stories inside reveal the introspective side of Pascual, and the private and exciting lives the Floirendo girls live in London, Manila and Davao.

Also in this issue is the annual Men's Style Special, including the much-awaited list of society's best-dressed men for 2007. Italian designer to the stars, Domenico Vacca, is featured in an especially commissioned story.

Other features: a 10-page, generously illustrated nostalgia piece on Antonio Garcia Llamas, painter and portrait artist to the rich and powerful in postwar Manila; a profile of artist Pandy Aviado; Jaime Laya's essay on the lost art of Letras Y Figuras; and photo albums of the season's most important society events.

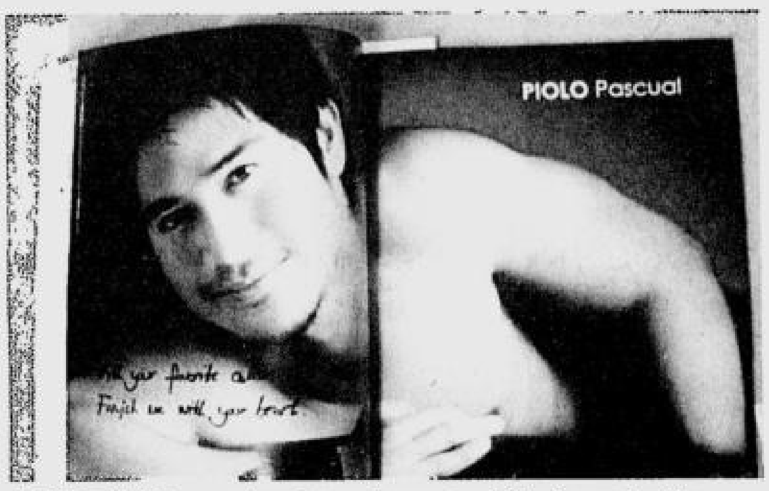
Raul Manzano is editor in chief. Metro Society is available nationwide.

'Word of Mouth' . . .

From page D1

Core); Lirio Salvador and Elemento; Ida, Kookie and Viva; and Mitch Garcia and Ian Madrigal.

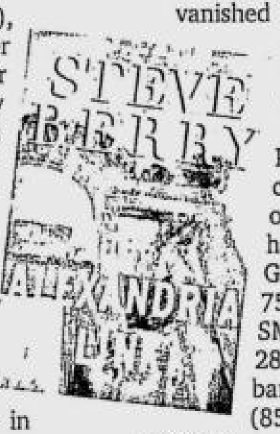
Guests are enjoined to come early to appreciate the exhibit for the first or second/last time. "Chromatext Reloaded" includes works by over 80 poets, writers and visual artists, including National Artists Napoleon Abueva, Edith L. Tiempo, Virgilio Almario and Benedicto Cabrera. Admission is free. Call 8323702.



STARSTUDIO magazine photos show actor Piolo Pascual as the "papyri" for lyric poetry by Filipino-American writer R. Zamora Linmark, a participating writer in the "Chromatext" event

Fantasy thriller

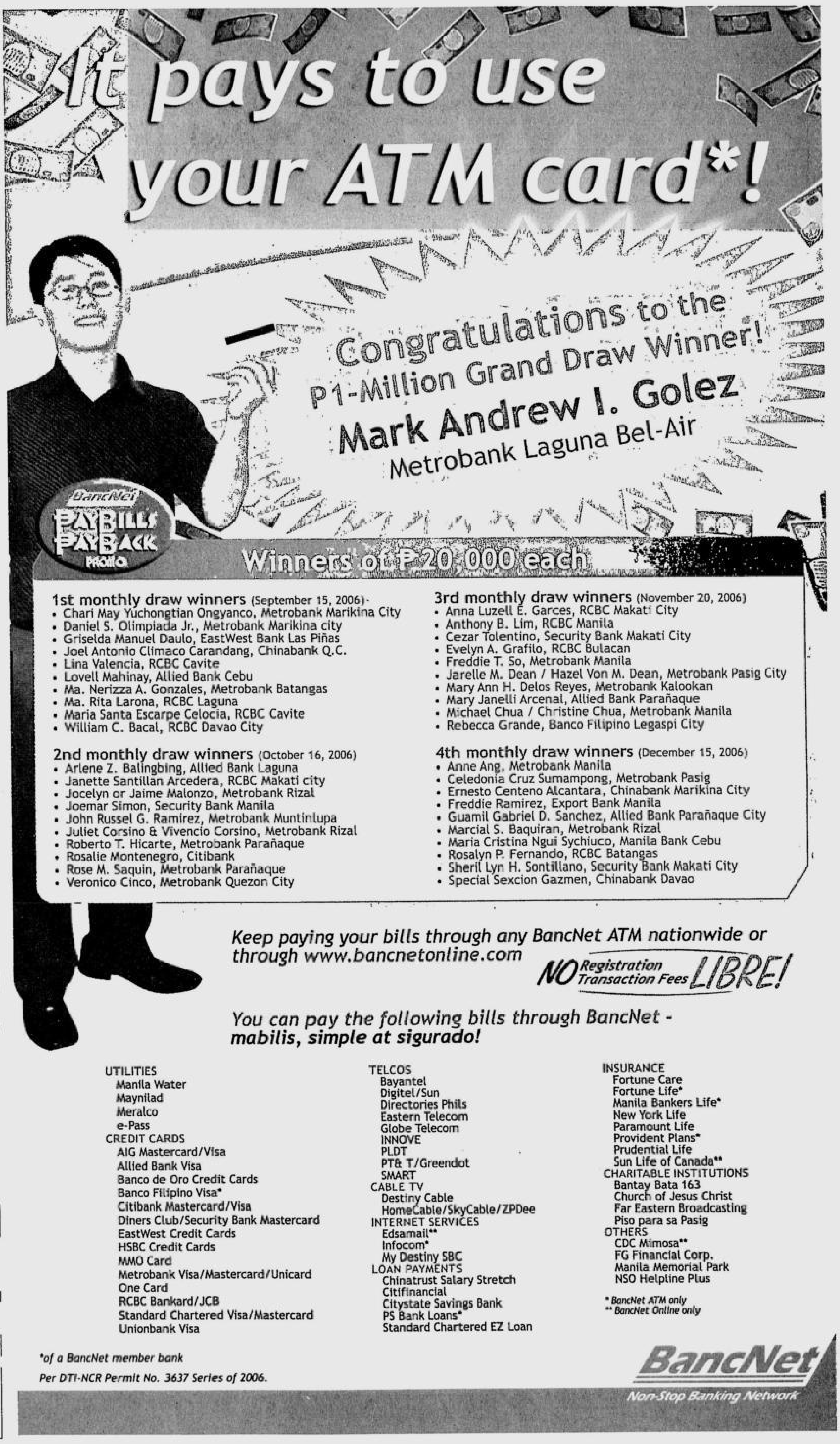
STEVE BERRY, WRITER OF several best-selling high-concept thrillers such as "The Templar Legacy" (2006) and "The Third Secret" (2005), is back with another paranoid fantasy for readers who enjoy having their heroes up against unimaginable odds while in the most glamorous of destinations.



"The Alexandria Link's" main character, Cotton Malone, has reinvented himself as a seller of rare books in Copenhagen.

Trouble, of course, finds him even there—first, his son has been kidnapped; and second, the kidnappers have torched his bookstore. The central conflict here comes from the fact that what the kidnappers want—"the Alexandria link," the key to locating the remains of the vanished library of Alexandria—is the one thing Malone cannot give them.

"Alexandria" is PowerBooks Specialty Store's book of the month. It has branches in Greenbelt 4 (tel. 7576428 to 29); SM Megamall (635-2898 to 99); Alabang Town Center (8505662 to 63); Glorietta 3 (7527075); Shangri-La (6380023/25); Robinson's Place Ermita (523-3334/5243448); SM Mall of Asia (5560244); and Festival Supermall (850-8221).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- Daniel S. Olimpiada Jr., Metrobank Marikina city
- Griselda Manuel Daulo, EastWest Bank Las Piñas
- Joel Antonio Climaco Carandang, Chinabank Q.C.
- Lina Valencia, RCBC Cavite
- Lovell Mahinay, Allied Bank Cebu
- Ma. Nerizza A. Gonzales, Metrobank Batangas
- Ma. Rita Larona, RCBC Laguna
- Maria Santa Escarpe Celocia, RCBC Cavite
- William C. Bacal, RCBC Davao City

2nd monthly draw winners (October 16, 2006)
- Arlene Z. Balingbing, Allied Bank Laguna
- Janette Santillan Arcedera, RCBC Makati city
- Jocelyn or Jaime Malonzo, Metrobank Rizal
- Joemar Simon, Security Bank Manila
- John Russel G. Ramirez, Metrobank Muntinlupa
- Juliet Corsino & Vivencio Corsino, Metrobank Rizal
- Roberto T. Hicarte, Metrobank Parañaque
- Rosalie Montenegro, Citibank
- Rose M. Saquin, Metrobank Parañaque
- Veronico Cinco, Metrobank Quezon City

3rd monthly draw winners (November 20, 2006)
- Anna Luzell E. Garces, RCBC Makati City
- Anthony B. Lim, RCBC Manila
- Cezar Tolentino, Security Bank Makati City
- Evelyn A. Grafilo, RCBC Bulacan
- Freddie T. So, Metrobank Manila
- Jarelle M. Dean / Hazel Von M. Dean, Metrobank Pasig City
- Mary Ann H. Delos Reyes, Metrobank Kalookan
- Mary Janelli Arcenal, Allied Bank Parañaque
- Michael Chua / Christine Chua, Metrobank Manila
- Rebecca Grande, Banco Filipino Legaspi City

4th monthly draw winners (December 15, 2006)
- Anne Ang, Metrobank Manila
- Celedonia Cruz Sumampong, Metrobank Pasig
- Ernesto Centeno Alcantara, Chinabank Marikina City
- Freddie Ramirez, Export Bank Manila
- Guamil Gabriel D. Sanchez, Allied Bank Parañaque City
- Marcial S. Baquiran, Metrobank Rizal
- Maria Cristina Ngui Sychiuco, Manila Bank Cebu
- Rosalyn P. Fernando, RCBC Batangas
- Sheril Lyn H. Sontillano, Security Bank Makati City
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  Diners Club/Security Bank Mastercard
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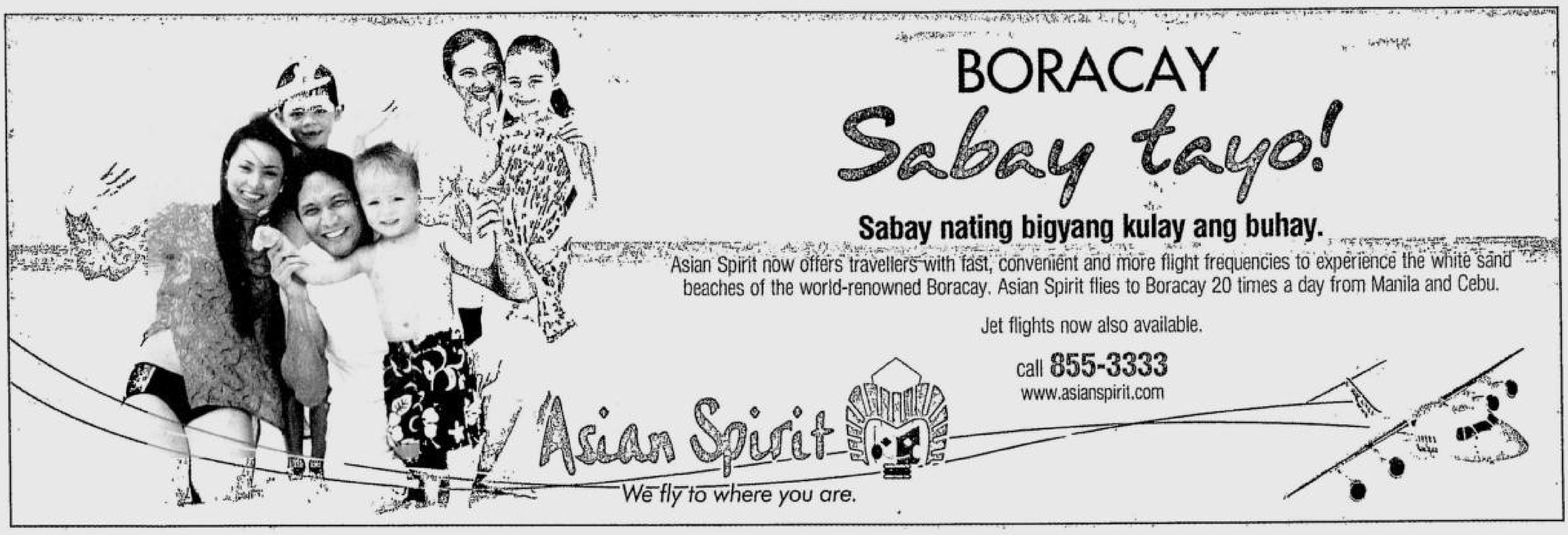
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UP runs right

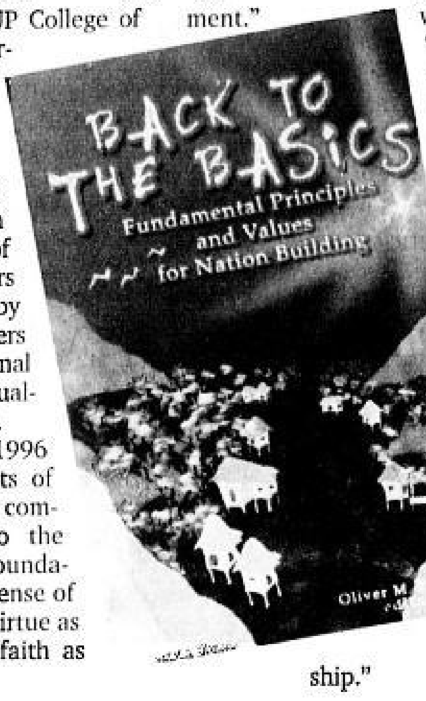
By Nicolo F. Bernardo
Contributor

THE REVERSE ROUTES OF "UP IKOT" and "UP Toki," ubiquitous public transport jeepneys around University of the Philippines-Diliman, reflect the extremes of activism in the country's premier State University—one to the left, the other to the right.

"Back to the Basics: Fundamental Principles and Values for Nation Building" (MG Reprographix, Inc., 2005, 196 pages) is one collection of "Rightist" sentiments from UP on responsible citizenship.

Edited by UP Biology professor Oliver Tuazon, who took up his master's at Harvard, the book is a break from agitprop discourses from the activist campus.

Not the typical good-manners-and-right-conduct manual, "Back to the Basics" includes essays by UP academicians, alumni and students on character formation, good governance, etiquette, friendship, love and sex. INQUIRER cartoonist and UP College of Fine Arts graduate Jess Abrera renders comic illustrations and graphics to complement the essays.



The collection underscores the need to cultivate virtue among the youth along the classical ideal of "governing one's life." It stirs idealism among Filipinos by turning on what their writers consider grave national threats: relativist individualism and escapist migration.

Tuazon, one of the 1996 Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines (TOSP), compares nation-building to the building of the proper foundations of an edifice, with sense of duty as "steel material," virtue as "gravel and sand," and faith as "cement." Filipinos should work out these "universal values and principles" toward personal and national success, he writes.

The key: "A deep-seated desire to excel," Tuazon adds. "All good things worth pursuing require long-term commitment: professional excellence, marriage and parenting, even lasting friendship."

Academic freedom

The book also tackles the issue of academic freedom. "True freedom," writes educator Jaime Achacoso, "is the capacity to order oneself free of coercion, whether external (violence) or internal (vices)." Achacoso probes the violence and vices cropping upon the Diliman campus in the name of academic liberty.

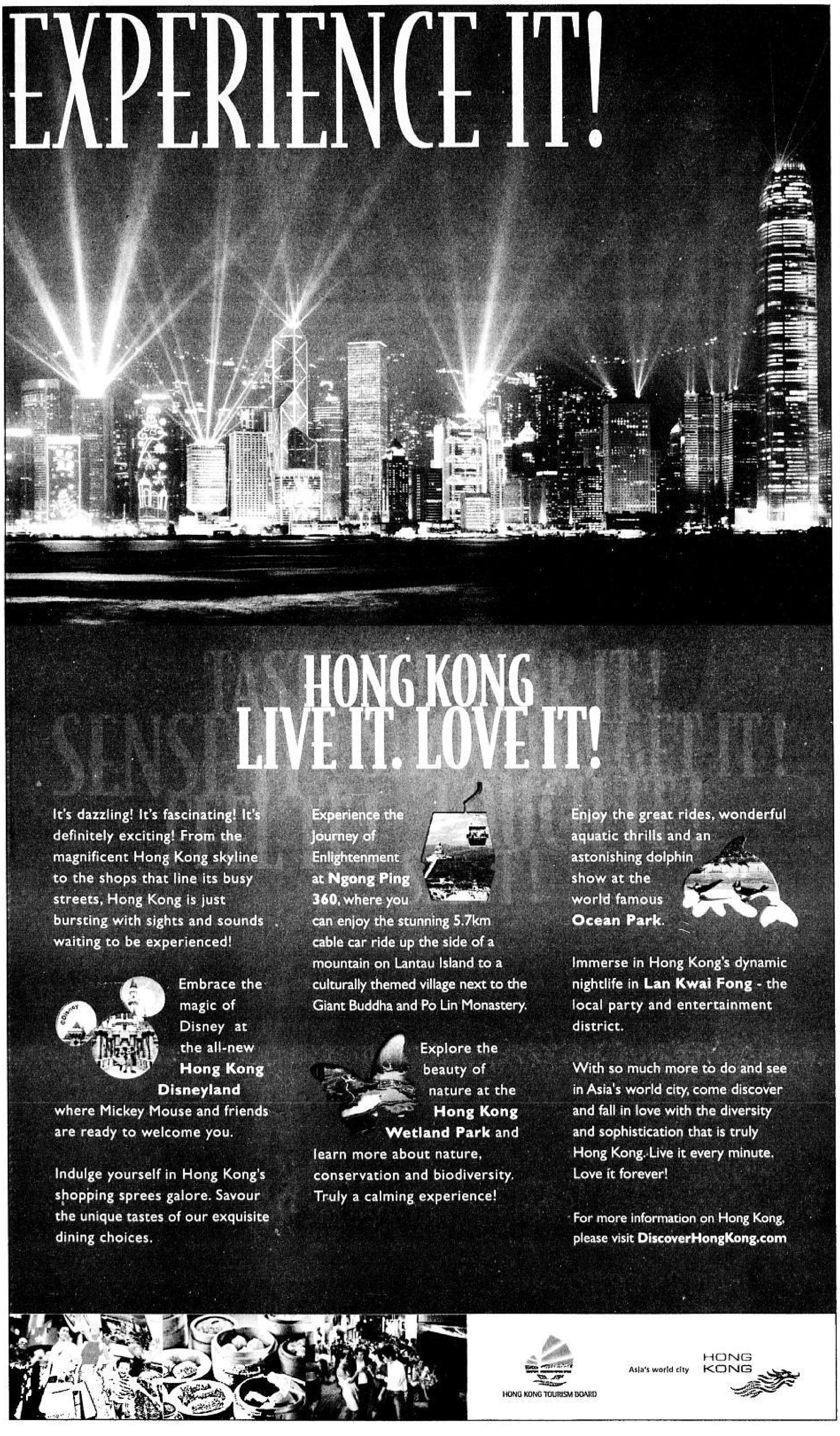
"The University is churning out potential opportunists who seem to have forgotten they are *iskolar ng bayan*," Achacoso says. "That the most violent fraternities—those with the most rumbles and deaths to their discredit—seem to be based in the State University's College of Law is again an alarming portent of things to come."

In another entry, playwright Paul Dumol, who wrote the popular play, "Ang Paglilitis ni Mang Serapio" and the Centennial play "Illustrado," tackles freedom of expression and pornography. Dumol argues that pornography can be art, but art itself, like any other human endeavor, must meet ethics.

The collection's closing talks about love and courtship. What is love? How long should courtships last? When do you go steady? Should you or should you not date? Tuazon and Achacoso give intriguing tips and "love notes."

The book's down-to-earth writing and cozy style make it an easy if not elementary reading, which suits its take on "basics." For those who don't have much time to read, they can skim through the pages and just take in the "key insights," which are highlighted in bold.

Whatever the contributors' philosophical bent, the Aristotelian thrust for the mean is still the book's message. This explains its cover illustration of a fertile valley symbolizing the golden mean, between two mountains representing two extremes. Readers are given the other face of Diliman. The writers recast UP in a different light, forging a U-turn against slips of values in and out of the campus.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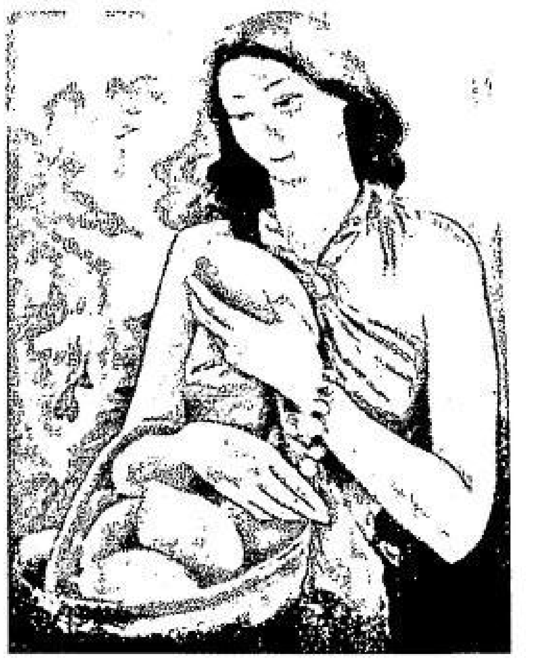


'Heart to Art' raffle

THE PARENT AUXILIARY OF SECOND MOM and Domuschola Internationalis, in association with the Kulay Marikina Artists Group, will present "Heart to Art," an art raffle event on March 8, at 3 p.m. at the Pavilion of the Manila Polo Club.

Participating in the raffle are renowned artists such as Lydia Velasco, Remy Boquiren, Cris Cruz, Fernando Cena, Cid Reyes, Al Peres, Domeng Labordo, Bing Siochi, Buds Convocar and Obemio. Other artists to join are: Honey Banal, Lisa Villasenor, Elmer Torio, Tam Urao, Ben Infante, Bong Gojar, Monn Canesa, Ige Concepcion, Chie Cruz, Ana de Leon, Ambie Flores, Armida Francisco, Joey Ibay, Fred Liongoren, Luis Gabriel, Norlie Meimban, Tessie Pecana, Andy Pernia, Noel Rile, Roland Santos, Sheila Tiangco, and Andy Abu Urag.

Zoerya Emi Baldemor Abuel; a kinder student of the school, will be featured as a special guest artist. Paolo Santos is the guest performer.

The participating artists have pledged to donate various artworks of varying themes and categories. Tickets will be sold and raffled off by category. All ticket holders will be guaranteed winners of an artwork. As a bonus, there will be one painting valued over P80,000 which will be raffled off to a lucky sponsor at the end of the program. Everybody wins.

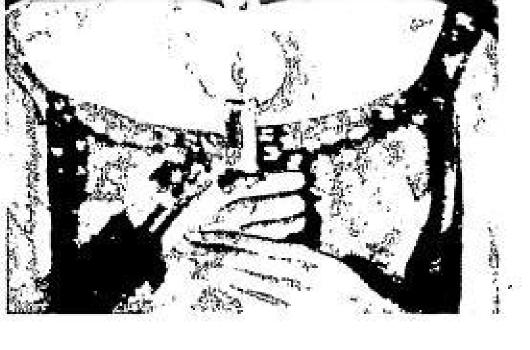
There will also be an exclusive collaboration and interaction with five named artists. There will only be five limited slots for this activity. This is open to both kids and adult participants.

The package includes collaborative and interactive work with the chosen artist, the finished artwork sized at 18"x18" co-signed by the chosen artist, certificate of authenticity and collaboration, and photo opportunity. This is on a first-come, first-served basis. Pre-registration is required.

For every donation or sponsorship, an individual patron, donor organization or corporate sponsor will receive a painting as a token of appreciation for their support.

A total of 150 artworks will be raffled off. Interested parties may view the artworks at Gallery Hues, MC Home Depot, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, until March 6.

Call Malet Gatan at 0920-9223739 or at 635-9743.



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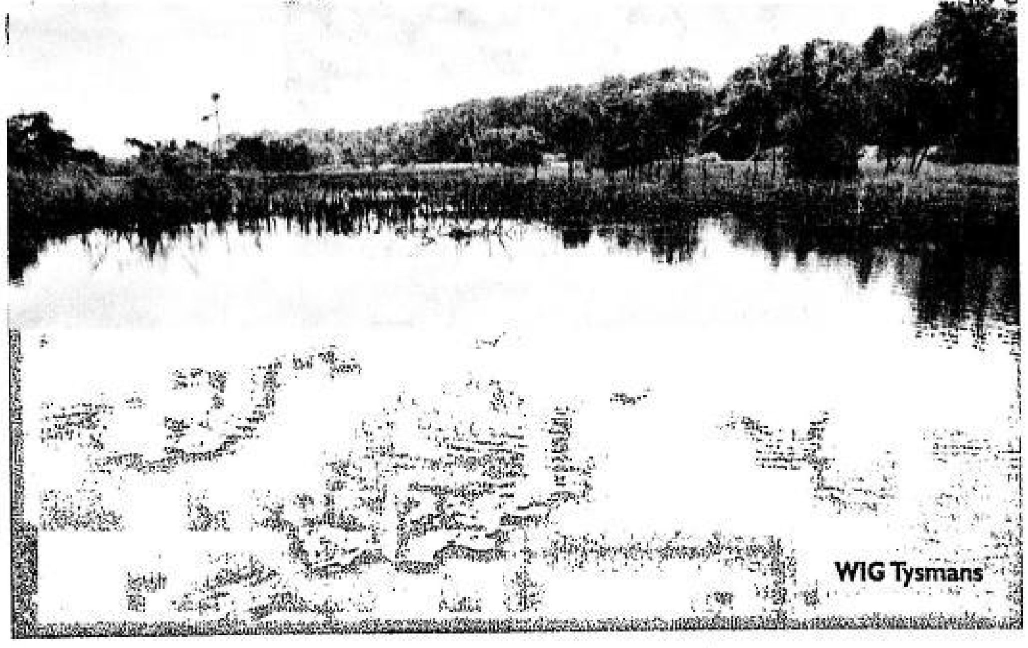
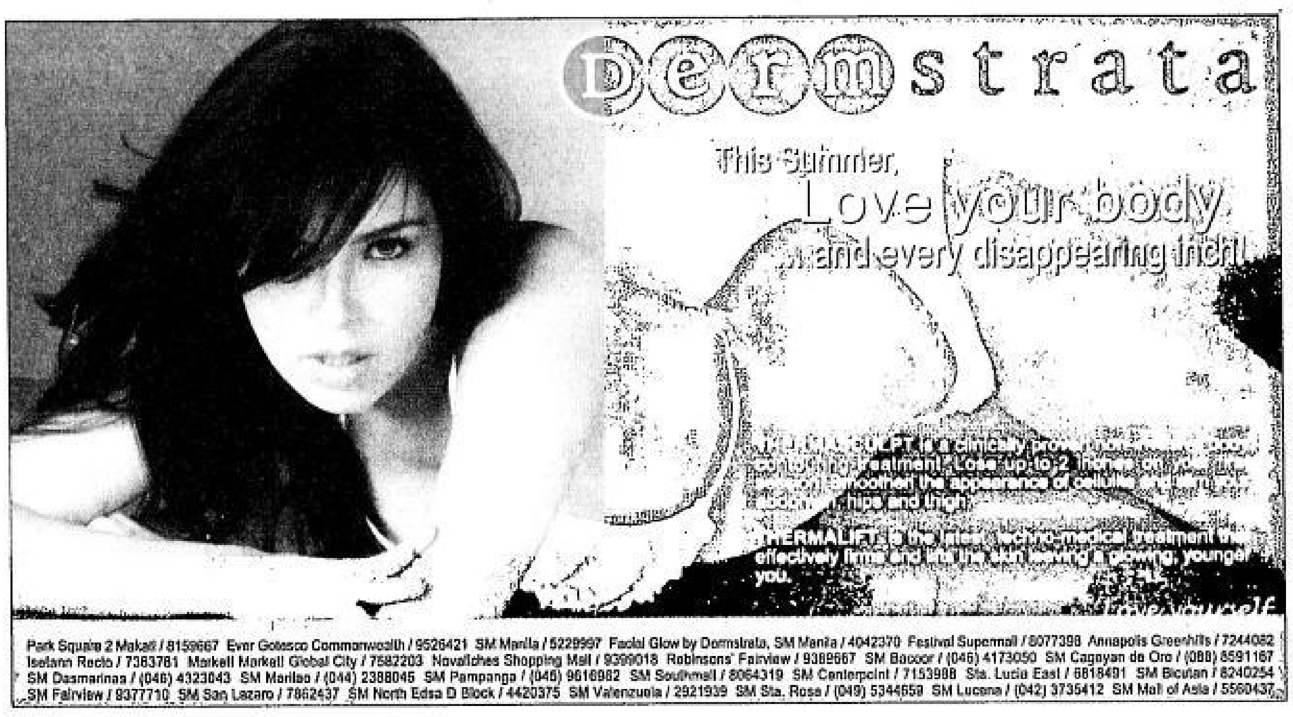


WIG Tysmans



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Shooting nature, saving nature

Photographers and artists commit to film the reforestation of La Mesa Dam to memorialize nature as well as convince generations to defend it

By Thelma Sioson San Juan

IN A RARE EXHIBIT OPENING on Friday at Rockwell, 14 of the country's top photographers and artists will display their photographs that will be known not only for their artistic worth but, more so, as poignant and precious reminders to present and future generations about a key natural heritage to Metro Manilans. The photographs were taken one drizzly day last year to capture a reforested La Mesa Dam—a life-giving source for 12 million Filipinos.

Called "H2Hope," the exhibit on March 2-4 is held by Bantay Kalikasan of the ABS-CBN Foundation chaired by Gina Lopez, which for the past decade has been working to reforest La Mesa in Quezon City. The ambitious project aimed to reforest 1,500 hectares. That is almost completed—only a little over 180 ha is left to be reforested.

As everyone knows, the water shortage crisis is a disaster waiting to happen. And all means should be exerted to save our forests and watersheds.

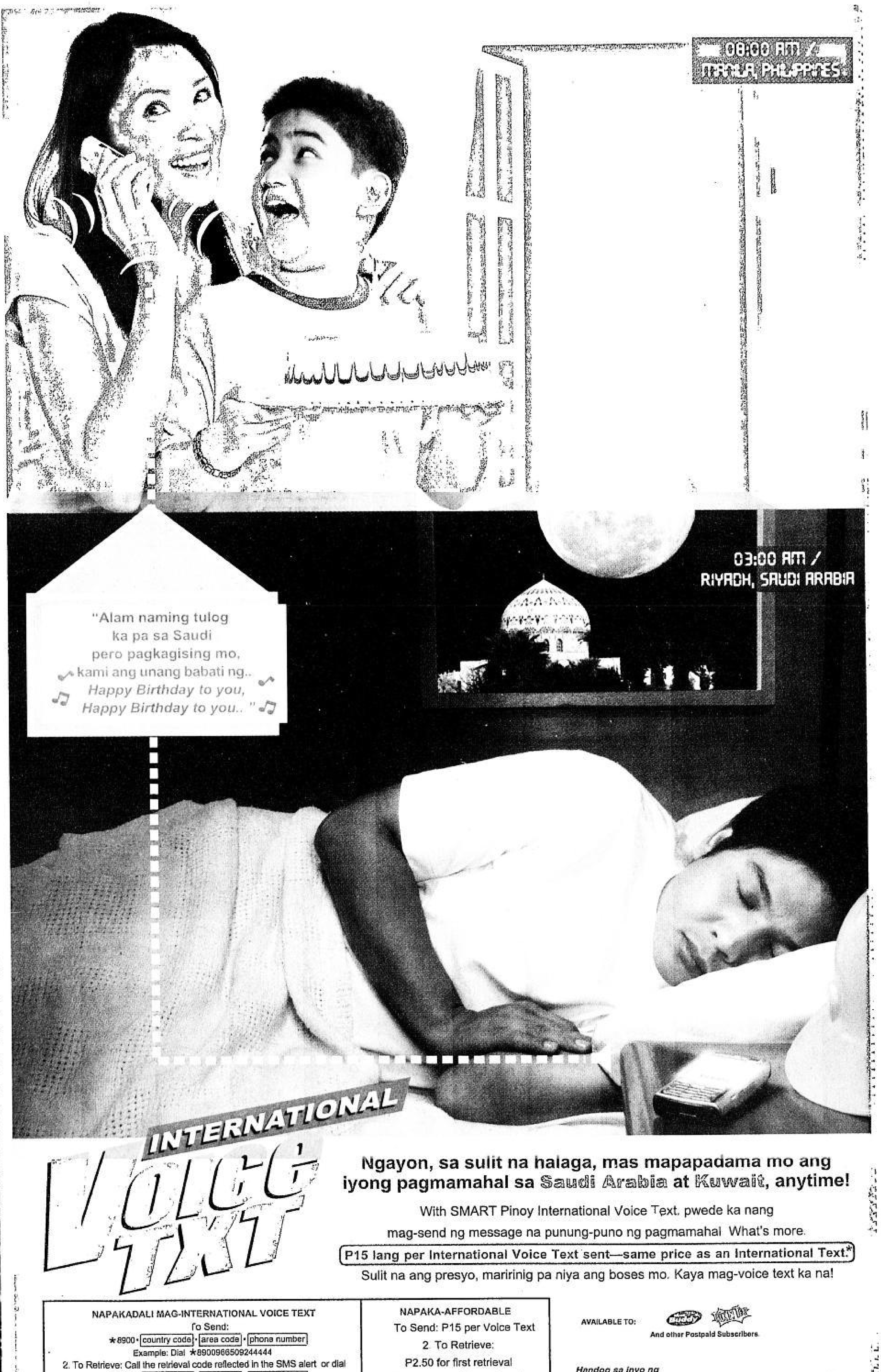
The mammoth project, in fact, has gone beyond that reforestation. An ecopark has been developed, perhaps one of the biggest in the region, which is becoming a nature destination for urban folk; it has streams and pools, nature trails, among other things.

"Now that the La Mesa Dam reforestation is nearly complete," said Lopez, "the tall task at hand is to secure it, maintain it."

The exhibit aims to raise funds for the maintenance of the reforested area. Given the far-reaching goal the fruits of whose realization will be felt by generations to come, it wasn't hard to convince the leading photographers and artists—from award-winning pho-

SHOOTING/ E2

CHARLIE Altomonte



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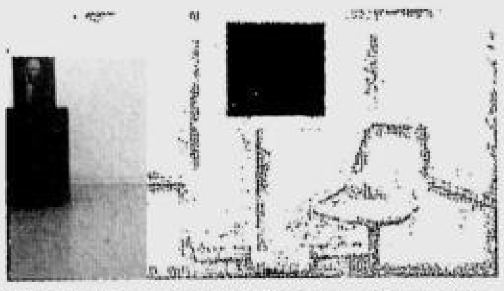


"PASANG-MASID" installation with Arturo Luz's "Lamination XXV" and an Eero Saarinen tulip chair

"REMBRANDT'S Delight" by Lee Aguinaldo and "Happy Birthday Suite #10" by Raymundo Albano in the CCP Small Gallery

Artists rehearse an uprising

By Constantino C. Tejero

WE REALLY LIVE IN interesting times. One sure sign that a society is in topsy-turvy is when its artists start to rehearse an uprising (figuratively speaking, of course, Mr. Justice Secretary).

Recall that it was in the hotbed of martial law that the Concerned Artists of the Philippines was conceived, spawned and nurtured. And it was precisely during those interesting times that Philippine Social Realism had flourished. Now it seems our artists are again astir, preparing for the next social upheaval.

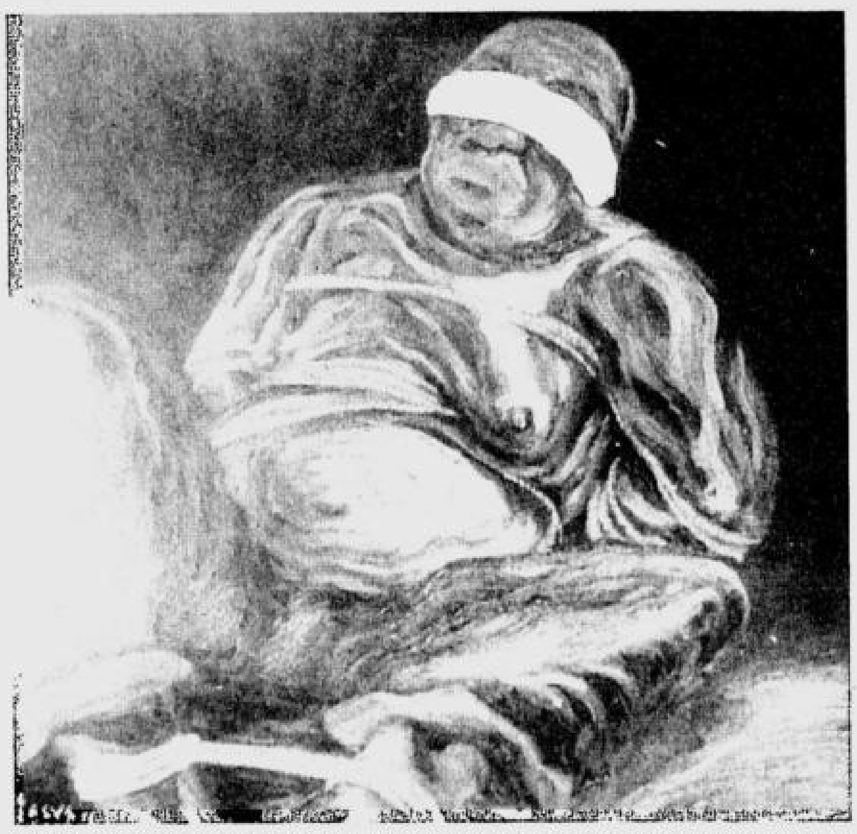
Tutok Karapatan, or simply Tutok, is a new initiative of mostly young and progressive visual artists and artists' groups billing themselves as "artists uniting for human rights." Chaired by Emmanuel Garibay, it has Karen Ocampo Flores as project director, with José Tence Ruiz and Alfredo Juan Aquilizan as consultants.

Says its mission statement: "Initially borne out of contributions from artists, Tutok has forged partnerships with organizations, communities, schools, institutions, galleries and individuals to present current and historical perspectives on art as social response through various media."

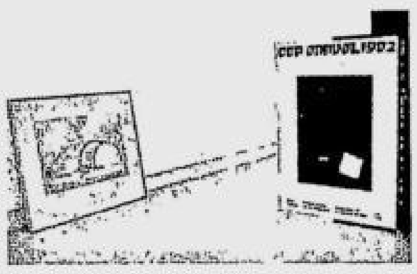
This includes "an art project on human rights where art practitioners can congregate and distill various ideas and contexts on human rights via a series of art events, exhibits and workshops; a series of talks that will help educate audiences and stimulate discussions on human-rights issues; and a documentation of the activities which will be shared through a catalogue and a website."

Appalling exhibit

As salvo in late November, the conglomerate presented in Angono, Rizal, an arts festival called "Publikhaan," participated in by numerous groups to make human-rights issues public. It comprised not just the visual arts but also performances, shadow play, choir singing, even the literary art.



"RED Tape" by Jesus Genotiva at the exhibit "Dos por Dos" in Boston Gallery



"STUDY for a Sonar Environment #1" by David Cortes Medalla and a CCP annual poster

The festival realized the initiative's aim to "consolidate diverse statements on human-rights issues into a series of art events happening in several public venues and art spaces."

It was followed in December by "Dos por Dos," an exhibition of some 200 artworks in mixed media by as many artists in Boston Gallery, Cubao, Quezon City. The dumbfounding show was accomplished by the curatorial team of Garibay, Ferdie Montemayor, Noell El Farol and Ruel Caasi.

The artworks are uniform in format

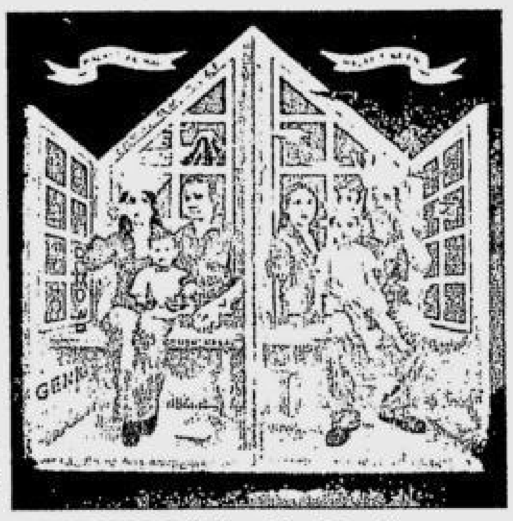
ARTISTS/ E4

VISUAL ARTS

TAM P. AUSTRIA (with hat) recently celebrated his 65th birthday by paying tribute to artists and benefactors such as Helen Gan, Mar Pagalunan, Roland de los Santos, Al Perez, Tanay Mayor Tom Tanjuatco, Rudolf Gonzales, Dr. Ton Raymundo, Roger Fulgado and Edmund Fradejas. Austria also paid tribute to Remy Boquiren, Paul Dimalanta, Abe Lucas, Rey Celerio, Greg Bolanos, Jun Tiongco, Malou and Company, and the Tuesday Group.

Esquillo at West Gallery

West Gallery (4/L, Building A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong) presents an exhibit by Alfred Esquillo "Bahay-bahayan," Feb. 27-March 13. Esquillo keeps his subjects close to home. The largest works, "Overseas Call," features a portrait of a family connected through an improvised long-distance call. The mother is surrounded by images associated with working and living in Japan while the father is based here in the Philippines. Esquillo studied fine arts at the University of Santo Tomas and received the Cultural Center of the Philippines Thirteen Artists Awards in 2000. He won the first prize at the Asean Art Awards in 1995. Call 6341284.



"OVERSEAS Call," by Alfred Esquillo

Contemporary artists at Art Center

The Silangan Foundation for the Arts, Culture and Ecology, with Pinto Art Gallery and the Boston Gallery, presents a group exhibit featuring the works of Salvador Alonday, Elmer Borlongan, Emmanuel Garibay, Mark Justiniani, Antonio Leano and José Santos III, at the Art Center, SM Megamall, until March 11. Alonday's figurative works in resin and cement reflect his pervasive interest in mythic subjects as metaphors of the body and soul and the struggles of life in its various stages of growth. Borlongan's large oils works are commentaries on the resilience of the Filipino. Garibay works with a more robust brushwork to reveal and expose the complex relations of church, state and people in an ideological struggle for hearts and minds. Justiniani's poetic paintings tackle themes such as the diasporic life, solitude and memory. Leano presents an installation which extends his current philosophy of artistic work. Santos shows labyrinthine compositions on everyday realities expressed in unworldly imagery. Call 7229205.

Sena art pupils' show

The FB Sena Art Workshop presents a group exhibit, "Heart and Art" until Feb. 28 at the Cinema Lobby, 4/F, Eastwood City, Libis, QC.

Shooti

From page E1

tojournalists Romeo Gaca
George Tapan to National
Bencab—to join in.

The group went to La
Dam one day last year to
"Having this forest in the
of the city is mind-bogglin
calls Mandy Navasero of the
rience.

The harvest from that d
collector's dream. Top co
tions have already re
works. Even before the
could open, about P4 milli
already been raised.

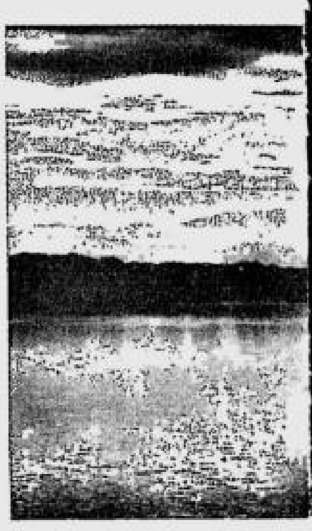
Participating in the exhi
Denise Weldon, Wig Tys
Neal Oshima, Bengy Toda,
Tapan, Jojo Guingona,
Gacad, Navasero, Charli
tomonte, Mayie Delgad
Lorenzo, Ralph Diaz, Guts
son and Bencab.

Architect Andy Locsin l
group that selected the wo
be exhibited. "It (the sel
was subjective on our par
works personified what is
done," he told a small grou
gathered for dinner to hon
photographers and other
cates behind the project.

Dynamic women

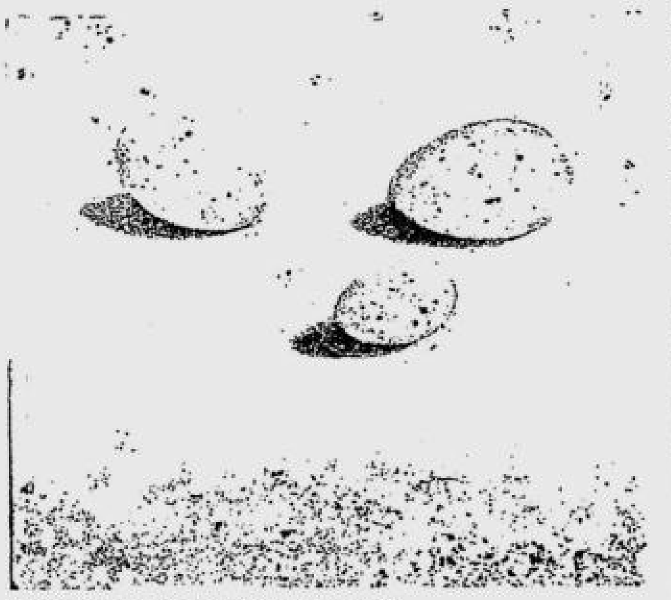
Aside from Gina, the pro
made up of dynamic wom
Racqui Delgado, Marit Yu
co, Suky Lammoglia, Glend
retto, Tita Trillo. It was
idea to produce postcard
could be sold to people w
lieve in the cause—thus th
tographs.

The works are worth coll



BENCAB

Double Dutch show opens March 1



COPPER etching by Han Van Hagen

DUTCH BROTHERS ALEX AND Han Van Hagen hold a joint exhibit, "Van Hagen & Van Hagen: Brothers in Art," March 1-5, at the Mezzanine of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

The first joint project of the brothers, the exhibit showcases stunning photographs and exquisite copper etchings.

A mainstay in Manila's high-profile social gatherings, Alex is a well-known photographer who records the faces and memories of these glamorous events. But for the exhibit, he is showcasing photos landscapes and still life captured during his travels all over Europe and the Philippines.

Han is one of the founders of The Etch-club of The Hague, capital of the Netherlands. He studied at the Royal Academy for Arts and Design at The

The art of memoirs

GALLERIA DUEMILA, TOGETHER WITH METROBANK Platinum Master Card, recently celebrated abstract art at the Memoirs Exhibit featuring today's five greatest artists in the local scene: Augusto "Gus" Albor, Edwin Coscolluela, Lao Lianben, Red Mansueto and Roberto M.A. Robles.

The five artists, all alumni of The University of the East School of Music and Fine Arts, have gathered to showcase their creative prowess in mixing layers of texture and color. It was a perfect afternoon for romancing the arts as beautiful live music provided by Mano, with the help of exhibitor Gus Albor on guitar, reverberated the art sanctuary.

Each artist's style was indeed admired by the guests, patrons of the arts Pasay City Mayor Allan Panaligan; Metrobank Card Corp. president Anne Young; Metrobank Card Corp. first vice president for marketing and sales Aloy Alday; Metrobank Card Corp. marketing manager Claire Mangoba; Dante Alighieri Foundation's Cinzia Parisotto along with her family marveled at the paintings set against the white walls of the gallery.

Galeria Duemila's Silvana Ancelloti-Diaz and husband Ramon made sure everybody enjoyed cocktails while casually conversing with the artists about their inspiring works.

Co-artists Jonathan Olazo, Tony Llaguno, Phyliis Zaballero, Regyuson and Junyee came in support of the acclaimed exhibitors as well.

Art advocates may still catch the exhibit until Feb. 28 at Galleria Duemila, 210 Loring St., Pasay. Call 8319990 or 8339815; e-mail duemila@mydestiny.net; or visit website www.galleriaduemila.com.

RED MANSUETO and his "Grand-Sacomex," "Rue de Vermont" and "Rue du Bac"

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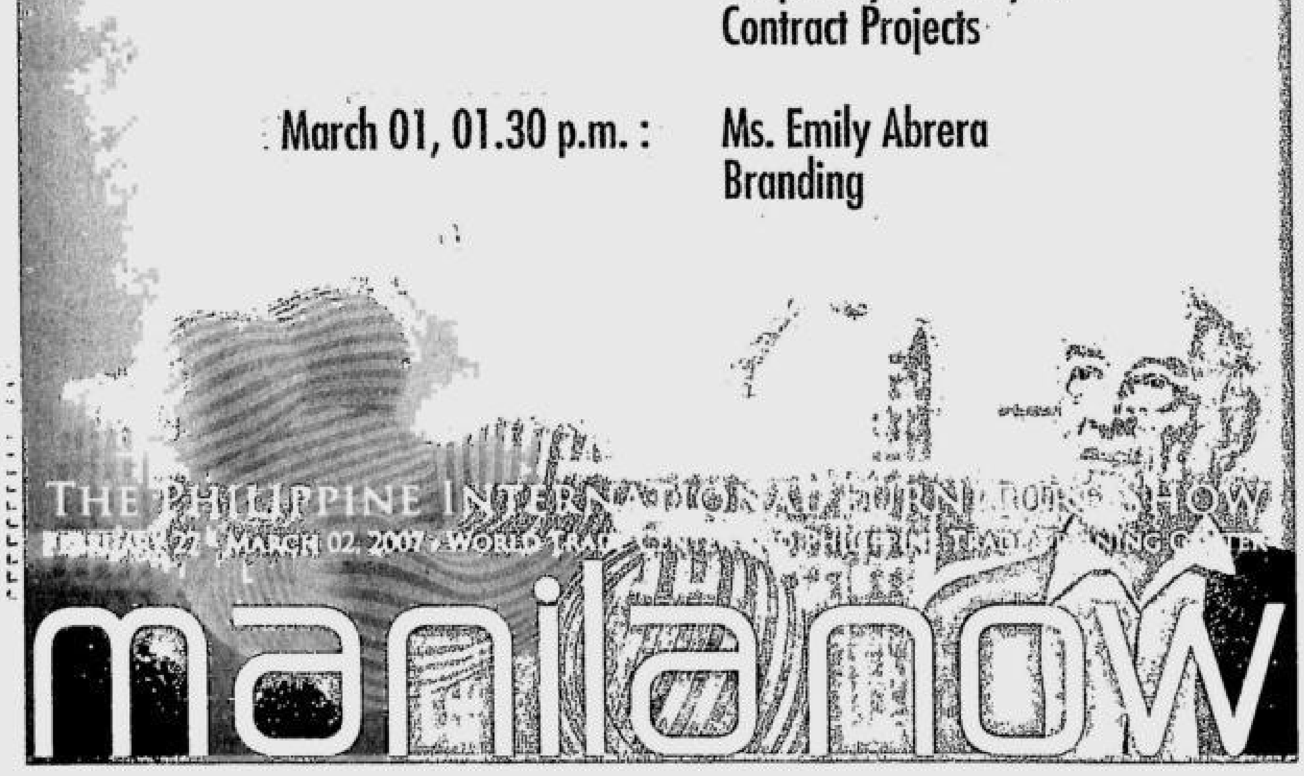
Branding



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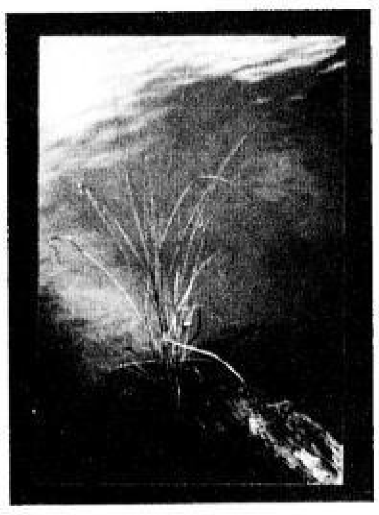
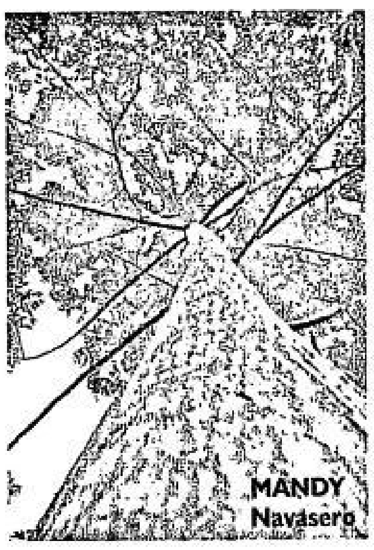


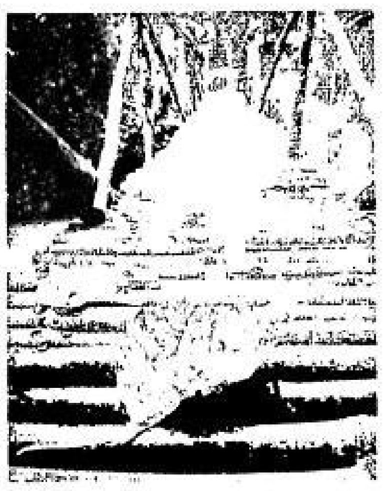
MAYIE Delgado



MANDY Navasero

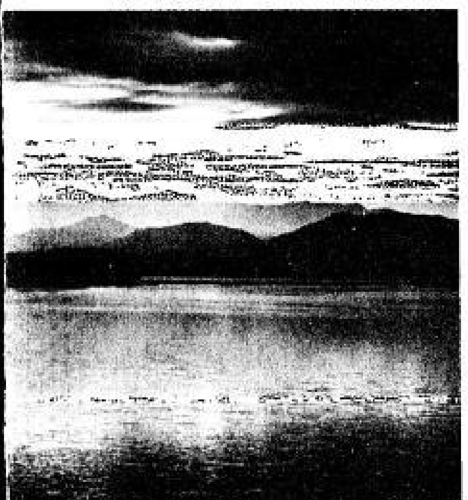
ROMEO Gacad

ROCKY Delgado, Marit Yuchengco, Raul Manzano, Isa Lorenzo, Mandy Navasero, Bengy Toda, Glenda Barretto; (standing) Bencab, Jojo Guingona, Sulcy Lammoglia, Gina Lopez, Ralph Diaz, Andy Locsin, George Tapan, Denise Weldon



JOJO Guingona

Bencab's photographs are abstract works which to him show "what I can do with nature." He took stalks, leaves and arranged them, as if in installation, to form an image evoking the moods, colors of nature.



Weldon aimed to capture the "spirit of the forest."

"It's a life-giving force," she said, "which puts you in touch with your presence in the world." Her photographs are in black and white because she believes some of the most beautiful landscapes are in that non-color. "They are closer to the spirit."

In the eyes of Agence France Press photographer Gacad, the forest is serene and pristine. Even the colors in his works are calming, even in their vibrancy. It is an image and a mood that paint a foil to what he's seen in his entire career. "I've seen the worst of nature in the disasters I've covered," he said. "I've seen its power." But then, on that day at La Mesa, Gacad saw a vulnerable nature that must be protected.

In four frames of a single leaf, Tapan captured nature's transition that's taken for granted so much by the human eye. "Through this one leaf, I wanted to show the changes in a day."

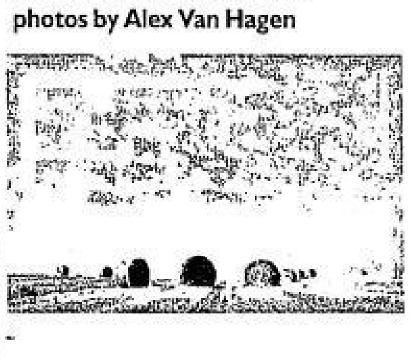
Toda said he just gave what he saw of a nature that "you don't monkey around with." He used a panoramic camera to show the vista, the unusual angles.

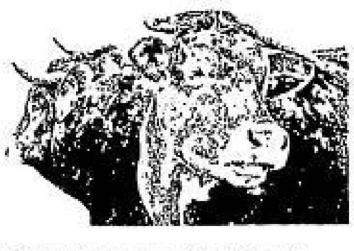
Guingona made the most of the bad weather and light to come up with a striking image in the rain.

Businessman Delgado recalled that he went to La Mesa with no preconceived idea of what he'd find. "It was creating on the spot," he said, "a challenge to see beauty in the most ordinary sight."

You have the entire weekend to view these photographs, which will also be available in postcards.

LANDSCAPES and still-life photos by Alex Van Hagen





ETCHING by Han Van Hagen

Hague. His favorite subjects include birds, mummies, cows and bulls, sheep, architecture and history.

Han is widely regarded as one of the contemporary masters of copper etching art throughout Europe.

"Van Hagen & Van Hagen: Brothers in Art" is sponsored by Makati Shangri-La Hotel; KLM; Bench; ING Private Banking; GA Sky Suites; Belo Medical Group; Manila Jockey Club, Inc.; Philippine Tatler; Dream 106.7; MasterCard; Century Tuna; Smart Infinity and Samsung.

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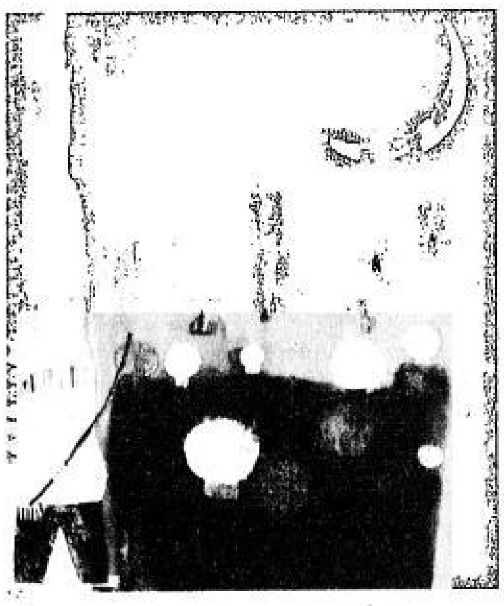
Show remembers Romeo Forbes, youngest 'Guyito' artist


"MARTIAL Law"

IN COMMEMORATION OF Romeo Forbes' first death anniversary, the Canvas art group presents "Remembering Romeo," featuring giclee prints of Forbes's original works from the highly lauded "Elias and His Trees" collection.

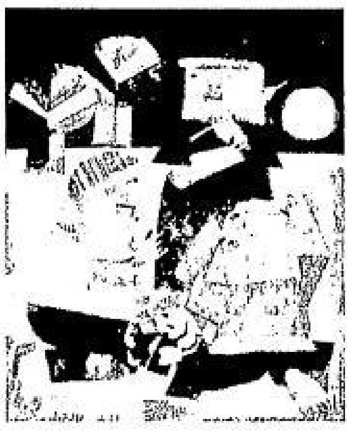
The exhibit is running until March 1 at 1/of Gallery in Serendra, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

On sale are copies of Katrina Tuvera's acclaimed novel "The Jupiter Effect," which has on its cover Forbes' "Martial Law," Also on sale are special-edition Romeo Forbes shirts.

Only 25, Forbes died last year of cancer of the blood. He was the youngest artist to paint the INQUIRER's Guyito mascot for the paper's 20th anniversary. He was also a best-selling artist whose works continue to be avidly collected by art lovers.

Call 901-3152.

FORBES at 1/of Gallery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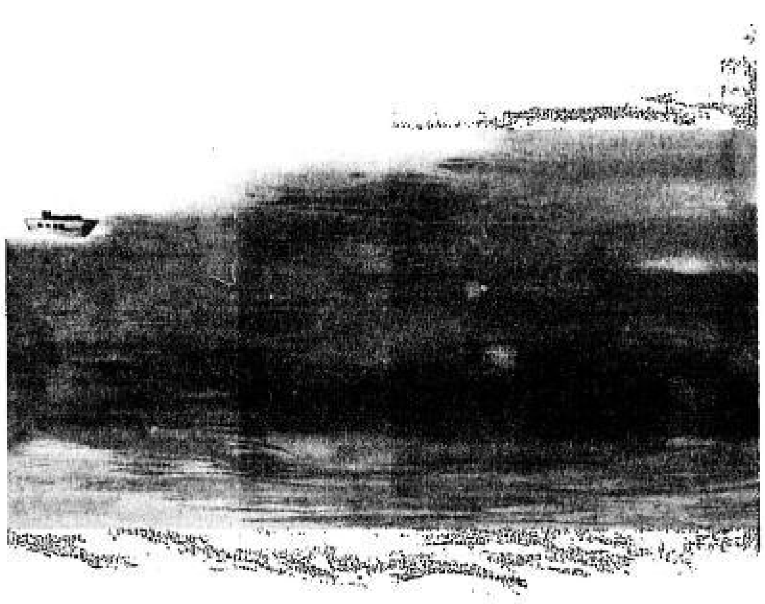
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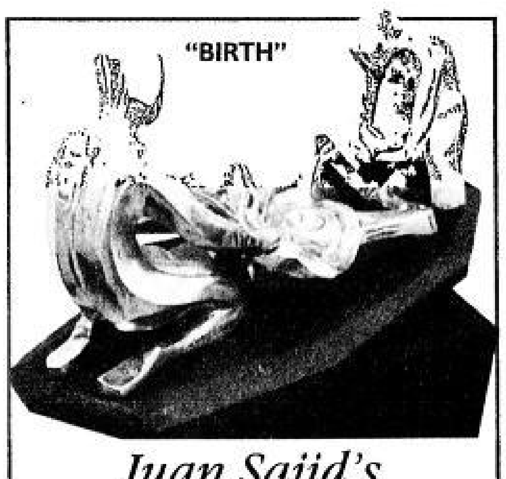

"BIRTH"

Juan Sajid's maternal sculptures

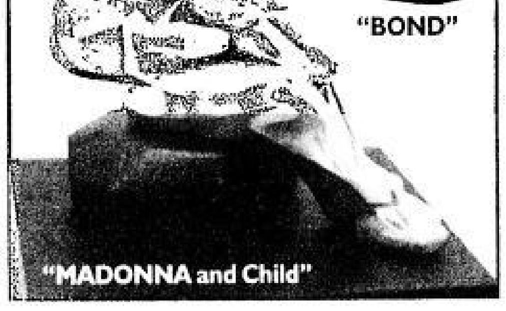
JUAN SAJID IMAO'S LATEST SCULPTURES are on view simultaneously at Choice Expression Gallery on Jupiter Street, Makati, and 1/of Gallery in Serendra, Bonifacio Global City.

After his sold-out "Father and Child" series in November, Sajid this time explores the journey of motherhood.

Unusual pieces such as "Bond," "Birth" and "Bound" depict the tender experiences of a mother, from pregnancy to delivery and child-rearing. The artist said he takes inspiration from his wife who is pregnant with their second child.

Call 9013152 and 8990718.

"BOND"


"MADONNA and Child"

Artists

From page E2

(2 ft x 2 ft and mostly wall-bound), but the images are mind-boggling in variety and impact. The picture of society presented is quite colorful, and the state of the nation that emerges is dark, indeed.

The imagery ranges from the winking (a mug-shot portrait of former President Joseph Estrada) to the jaw-dropping (President Macapagal-Arroyo fully gowned, surrounded by piles of skulls in what is apparently a killing field of political victims, and smiling to two skulls she holds up, like Hamlet soliloquizing to poor Yorick).

Says Flores: "Art is a potent medium in raising the urgent call to uphold human rights and to put a stop to political killings."

Cultural invasion

Then there's the series of touring exhibits, art talks and performances called "Perspektiba." With Mideo Cruz as lead curator, the first was held in November in the Beato Angelico Gallery of University of Santo Tomas; the second last month in the Amrhein Gallery of St. Scholastica's College; and the third through February in the Faculty Center Gallery of the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

For the National Arts Month, the artists are taking over the fourth-floor spaces of the Cultural Center of the Philippines to hold "Re-View: Pasang-Masid" on Feb. 15-April 1, with Flores and Noel Soler Cuizon as lead curators. The exhibition comprises selections from the CCP art collection juxtaposed with current works, photos and artifacts.

Declares its poster: "Tutok takes on CCP as 'high' site for artistic validation. [The exhibit] will be a critical and historical overview of a national cultural institution and aims to illustrate the CCP's peculiar role as a cultural instrument of the state and as venue for artistic excellence."

So there. One can clearly see artists are coming and converging from north to south, from the cradle of folk art right into the center of high art, to stage their uprising.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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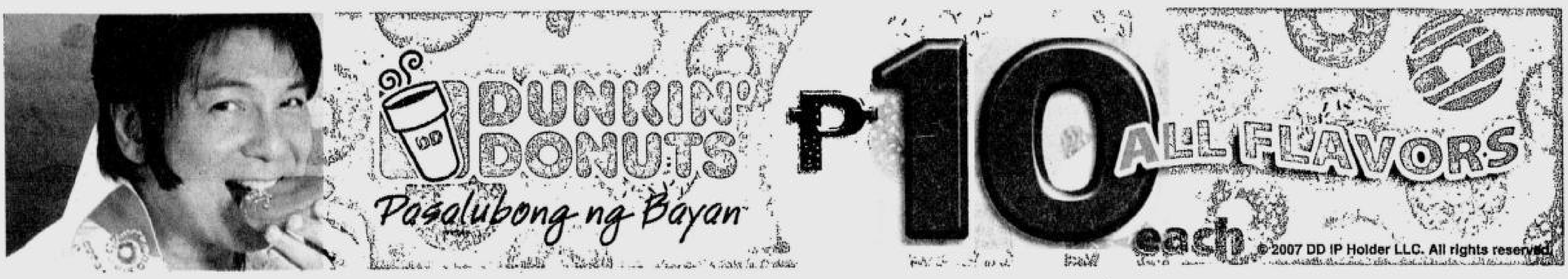

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'Pan's Labyrinth' & all its pleasures

IVANA Baquero as the lead character Ofelia.

By Constantino C. Tejero

WE'VE KNOWN GUILLERMO del Toro as an artist of that oddball film blending science fiction and the occult, since he gave us "Cronos" in the early 1990s. Although years later this Mexican stylist went Hollywood with "Mimic," "Blade II" and "Hellboy," we still associated him with marginal cinema.

In December, the snobbish British Film Institute picked "Pan's Labyrinth," del Toro's sixth and latest, among its Top 10 Films of 2006—tying at seventh with Nuri Bilge Ceylan's "Climates," Terrence Malick's "The New World," and Paul Greengrass' "United 93." No. 1 is Michael Haneke's "Hidden," followed by Pedro Almodóvar's "Volver," and Martin Scorsese's "The Departed."

Though it got good notices at the Cannes film festival earlier, the BFI nod still came as a surprise. And last month, the super snobbish Society of Film Critics chose it as Best Picture of 2006.

When the Academy Awards nominated it in six categories, including Best Foreign Language Film and Best Original Screenplay, it felt rather anticlimactic. We are, of course, rooting for it.

Guillermo del Toro's latest has 6 strong Oscar nods

The pleasure of watching this film—a heady mix of political allegory, religious fable, fairy tale and horror movie—is that it can be seen at various levels, the scenes peeling off layer by layer.

Reality or illusion

It is 1944. The Spanish Civil War is over but remnants of the resistance against the dictator Generalissimo Franco still lurk in the hills.

Ofelia (played by Ivana Baquero), along with her mother Carmen (Ariadna Gil), is joining her stepfather Capitán Vidal (Sergi López) in a Falangist outpost near the guerrillas' camp. They come to live in a shadowy mansion run by the enigmatic Mercedes (Maribel Verdú).

As Ofelia and her mother travel to this godforsaken place, an insect emerges from the mouth of a decaying statue and follows the girl down the road through the woods into the house.

At night, the sinister insect, revealed to be a fairy, leads Ofelia through a labyrinth overgrown with hedges, into a craggy cavern where she meets an ancient faun (Doug Jones). At this point the viewer starts to wonder whether this is reality, incipient madness or just budding sexuality.

The creature tells the girl that she is actually a princess who has escaped from the Underground Realm to live among mortals. Persuading her that he is the emissary of her father the king, he bids her return to her kingdom.

PAN'S/ F4

DIRECTORS for the Best Foreign Language Film nominees pose outside the Kodak Theatre. (L-R): Canada's Deepa Mehta of "Water," Mexico's Guillermo Del Toro of "Pan's Labyrinth," Germany's Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck of "The Lives of Others" and Sweden's Susanne Bier of "After the Wedding." REUTERS

Steely security blanket draped over Hollywood

HOLLYWOOD—THE RACE FOR THE MOVIE world's most coveted accolade looks set to be a photo-finish at the 79th Academy Awards here Sunday (today in Manila), with four out of five films in the running for the Best Picture Oscar.

Analysts say that although Martin Scorsese's gangster drama "The Departed" has nosed slightly in front in the latest betting, the field remains wide open as Hollywood crackles with anticipation ahead of Sunday's ceremony.

Most Oscar watchers believe that "The Departed," the bloody crime caper based on the Hong Kong movie "Infernal Affairs," will pick up the prize by default as the five-times-ignored Scorsese finally wins the Best Director Oscar.

But the recent memory of last year's upset win for "Crash" over gay cowboy drama "Brokeback Mountain" serves as a reminder that nothing should be taken for granted.

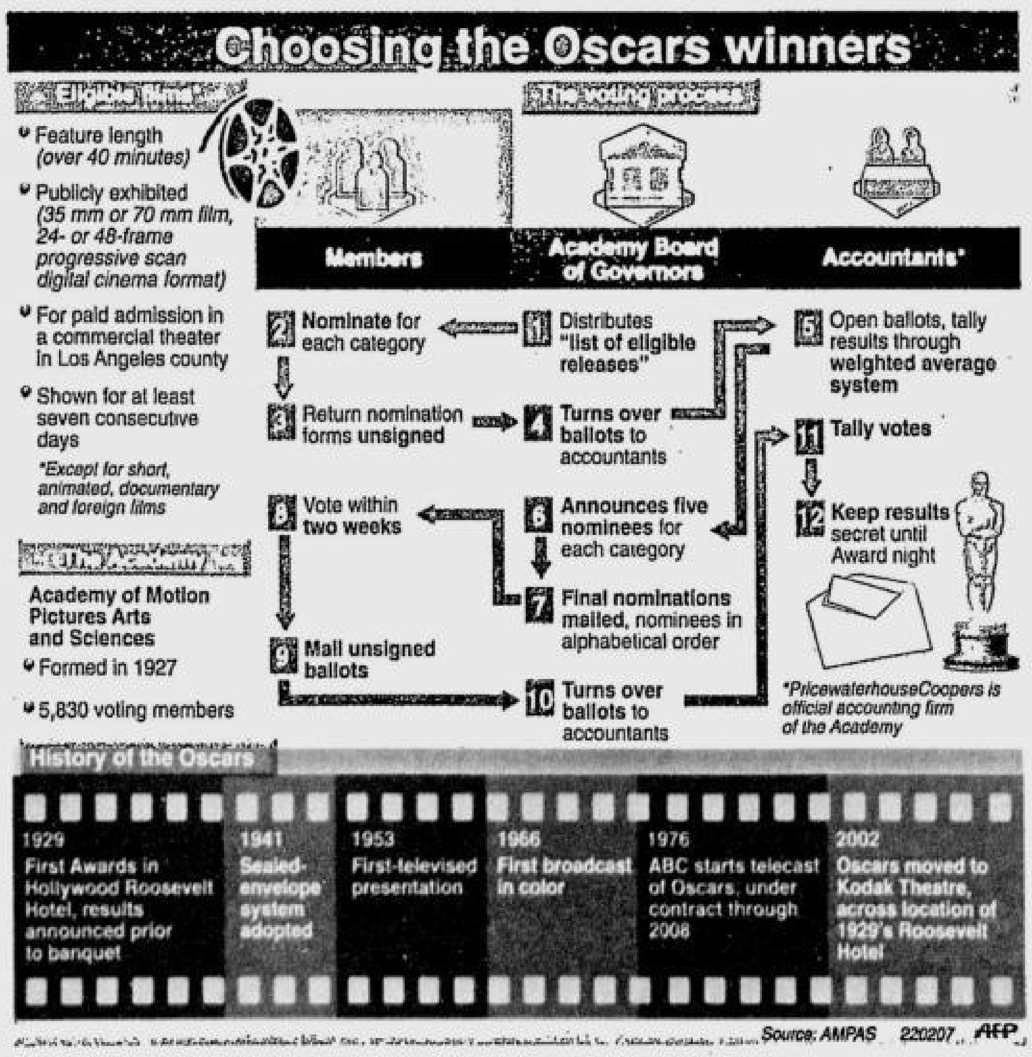
Watch the awards night live from the Kodak Theatre, Los Angeles on RPN 9 today at 9 a.m., with a prime time replay at 7 p.m.

The multilingual drama "Babel," independent feel-good movie "Little Miss Sunshine" and Clint Eastwood's "Letters from Iwo Jima" all have significant support among the Academy's 5,830 voters (*See composition on page F5*), analysts say, with British film "The Queen" regarded as out of the running.

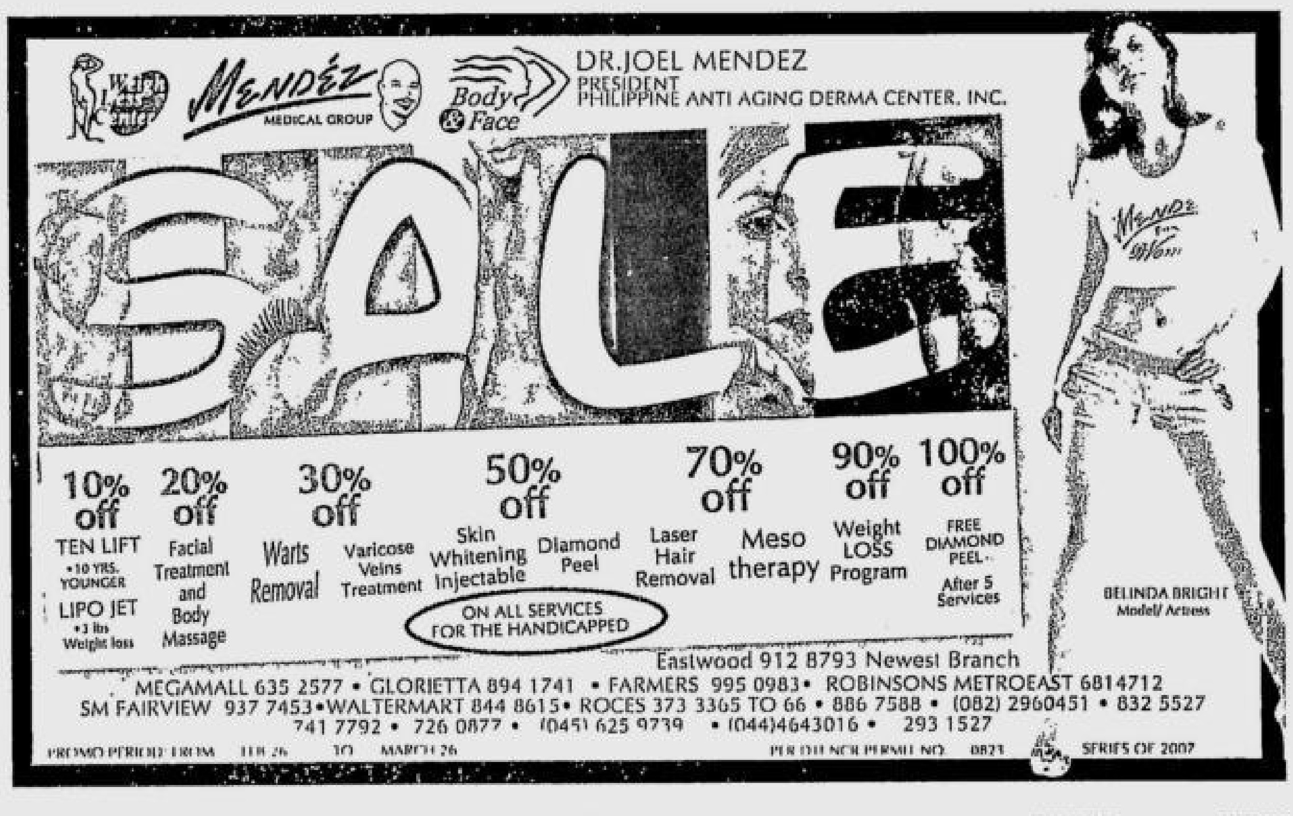
"It's important to remember that the Oscars rarely go according to script," said pundit

STEELY/ F2

Choosing the Oscars winners


Eligible films
Feature length (over 40 minutes)
Publicly exhibited (35 mm or 70 mm film, 24- or 48-frame progressive scan digital cinema format)
For paid admission in a commercial theater in Los Angeles county
Shown for at least seven consecutive days
*Except for short, animated, documentary and foreign films
The Academy
Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences
Formed in 1927
5,830 voting members
The voting process
Members
Academy Board of Governors
Accountants*
1 Distributes "list of eligible releases"
2 Nominate for each category
3 Return nomination forms unsigned
4 Turns over ballots to accountants
5 Open ballots, tally results through weighted average system
6 Announces five nominees for each category
7 Final nominations mailed, nominees in alphabetical order
8 Vote within two weeks
9 Mail unsigned ballots
10 Turns over ballots to accountants
11 Tally votes
12 Keep results secret until Award night
*PricewaterhouseCoopers is official accounting firm of the Academy
History of the Oscars
1929 First Awards in Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, results announced prior to banquet
1941 Sealed-envelope system adopted
1953 First-televised presentation
1966 First broadcast in color
1976 ABC starts telecast of Oscars, under contract through 2008
2002 Oscars moved to Kodak Theatre, across location of 1929's Roosevelt Hotel

Source: AMPAS 220207 AFP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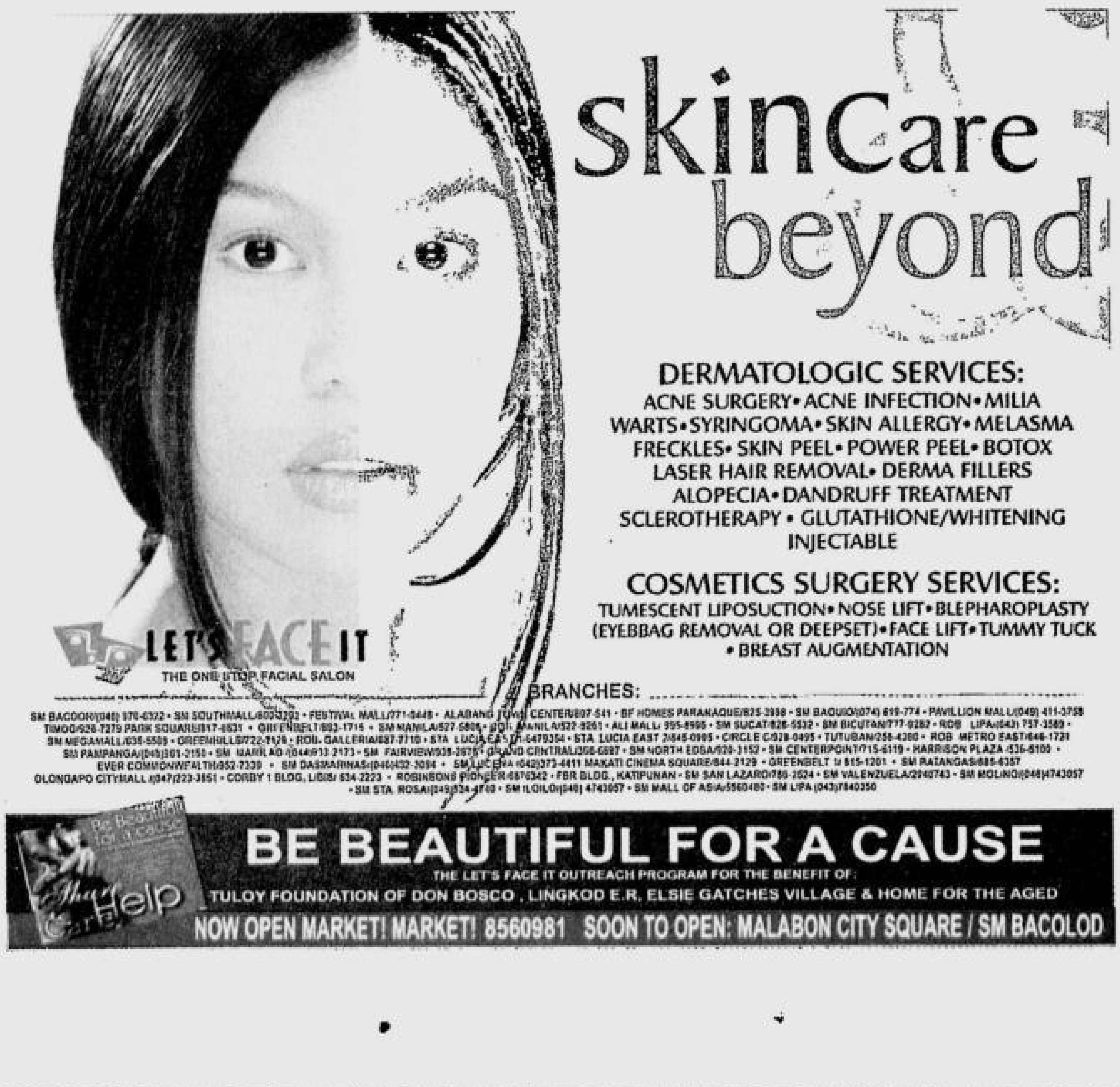

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AN OSCAR statue is unwrapped on the red carpet on Friday during preparations for the awards rites. REUTERS

Steely security blanket draped …

From page F1

Tom O'Neil of the TheEnvelope.com.

Expect surprises

"There are going to be surprises. I still think 'The Departed' will win Best Picture because it's a very guy-friendly movie, and two-thirds of the Academy's members are men. But 'Babel' is closing in," he said.

Mexican director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's "Babel," shot in four languages on three continents, is typical of the cosmopolitan field at this year's Oscars.

There is a strong theme of diversity at the awards: A record five black actors are up for Oscars and are expected to win in three out of four categories, while this year's host, comedian Ellen DeGeneres, is gay.

While the race for Best Picture remained open, bookmakers in Britain have stopped taking bets on Mirren prevailing in the Best Actress category for her portrayal of Queen Elizabeth II in "The Queen."

"If Helen fails to win, it will be the biggest upset in Oscar betting history," William Hill spokesman Rupert Adams said.

Tax inspectors

This year's Oscars ceremony will be watched by a global audience estimated in the hundreds of millions.

US tax inspectors will also be keeping a close eye on proceedings—a fact that has helped end the tradition of $100,000 gift baskets crammed with luxury goods that used to be given to Oscars presenters.

"It seemed a little inappropriate to offer a gesture of thanks that then carried with it a tax obligation," Academy spokesperson Leslie Unger said when explaining the decision.

Final preparations were in full swing on Friday, with authorities preparing to drape a steely security blanket across Hollywood.

All the main streets around the Kodak Theatre have been sealed off, with several hundred police officers manning barricades, conducting identification checks and searching cars, including celebrities' limos.

"We've taken every measure necessary to protect such a high-profile event," said LA Police Department Lieutenant Paul Vernon. *AFP*

DID YOU KNOW...

Gore film favored

BEVERLY HILLS, California—Al Gore narrowly missed becoming president of the United States, but Hollywood may anoint him "King of the Greens" with an Oscar for "An Inconvenient Truth," the documentary about his slide show on global warming.

The film is favored to win Best Documentary feature after Gore's message of impending climate crisis resounded among celebrities and at the box office.

The third-highest grossing documentary of its kind, it has earned $45 million worldwide, sold 1 million DVDs and is credited for helping shift US public opinion on the subject.

15 nominees

"We thought we were just making a film about a slide show with a former politician," said director Davis Guggenheim. "Then we took it to Sundance … and suddenly realized we made a film with a rock star."

There are 15 nominees in the documentary category short list. Sandra Ruch, executive director of the International Documentary Association, said this was more than usual.

"Truth" is up against "Iraq in Fragments," by filmmaker James Longley; "My Country, My Country," also about Iraq, by Laura Poitras; "Deliver Us from Evil," about an Irish pedophile priest in California, by Amy Berg; and "Jesus Camp," about the evangelical Christian movement, by Heidi Ewing and Rachel Grady. *Reuters*

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1 ASK THE DUST • THX
12:15 2:45 5:15 7:45 10:00
2 GHOST RIDER
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
3 indieSine: IMAHE Nasyon
1:30 4:15 7:00 9:45
4 MUSIC and LYRICS
12:00 2:20 4:40
5 EPIC MOVIE
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
6 THE PROMISE
12:00 2:20 4:40
7 TROIKA
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
8 THE PURSUIT of HAPPYNESS
12:15 2:45 5:15 7:45 10:00
9 BRIDGE of TERABITHIA
1.00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00
10 THE NUMBER 23
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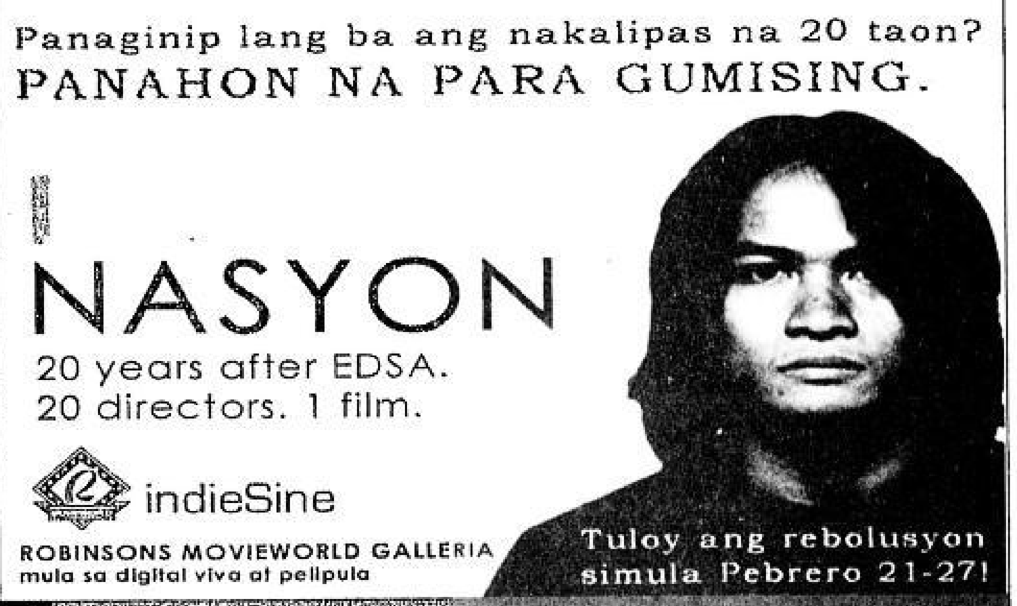

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2 THE PURSUIT of HAPPYNESS
Sneak Previews
3 THE NUMBER 23
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:15 10:00
4 ASK THE DUST
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5 EPIC MOVIE
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6 GHOST RIDER
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7 THE PROMISE
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2 GHOST RIDER
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3 ROME and JULIET
12:30 3:10 6:00 9:00
4 THE PROMISE
11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05
5 THE PURSUIT of HAPPYNESS
Sneak Previews
6 BRIDGE of TERABITHIA
11:30 1:55 4:20 6:45 9.10
7 EPIC MOVIE
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9.05
8 THE FOUNTAIN 12:30 2:25
MUSIC and LYRICS 4:30 6 50 9 00

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1 GHOST RIDER
2 EPIC MOVIE
3 BRIDGE of TERABITHIA
4 TROIKA
5 THE PROMISE
6 THE PURSUIT of HAPPYNESS

PIONEER [illegible]

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2 GHOST RIDER
1:30 3:55 6:20 8:40
3 THE PURSUIT of HAPPYNESS
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Even the biggest stars should leave to experts the matter of formal outfits

LOS ANGELES—HOLLYWOOD actresses may have perfected the pout and the come-hither stare but when it comes to designing or styling the perfect outfit for Oscar night, they should defer to the fashion experts.

That is the lesson from the Academy Award's red carpet history, where some daring actresses' self-designed or self-styled creations have fallen flat with fans and fashionistas.

"People complain that the Oscars are boring because stylists are responsible for dressing the actresses," said Valerie Steele, director of the Museum at New York's Fashion Institute of Tecnology. "But you can't blame the actresses. When it's been left up to them ... they have had these bloopers where they've been made fun of."

Remember the Kim Basinger white satin creation with only one sleeve? The look was wildly criticized at the 1990 awards.

Ditto that of Demi Moore a year earlier, a look that combined short pants resembling running shorts, a black lace bodice and Elizabethan train.

Even the doyenne of acting herself, Meryl Streep, once chose a gown from the sale rack at Saks Fifth Avenue, according to reporter Bronwyn Cosgrave, author of "Made For Each Other," a history of Oscar fashion.

No guarantee

But working with world-class designers and wearing avant-garde, haute couture fashion is no guarantee of red carpet success. Fashion watchers cite the John Galliano reverse white tuxedo Celine Dion wore in 1999 and Uma Thurman in a Christian LaCroix white, blue and gold billowy concoction, as some of the worst of the bunch.

CHEER FACTOR

And singer Bjork as a white swan? Need we say more?

Sometimes, trusting one's own instinct works.

In 1996, Sharon Stone delved into her deep closet to assemble a show-stopping red-carpet outfit that included a Gap mock turtleneck and a gardenia plucked from her garden.

And Drew Barrymore, according to Patterson, should be applauded for choosing a black gown off the rack one year and accessorizing it with fresh daisies in her hair. *Reuters*

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③ BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA MTRCB GP 12:20, 2:45
MUSIC AND LYRICS (PG-13) 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
④ THE NUMBER 23 MTRCB R-13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
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GHOST RIDER PG13 2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15	EPIC MOVIE R13 1:25,3:40, 5:55,8:10	THE NUMBER 23 R13 1:45,3:55,6:05, 8:15,10:25

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GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 EPIC MOVIE	2 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX NUMBER 23 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS GUARANTEED SEATS	3 MUSIC & LYRICS GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND GUARANTEED SEATS	5 EPIC MOVIE GUARANTEED SEATS		
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ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 GHOST RIDER	2 MUSIC & LYRICS	3 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER	4 BLOOD & CHOCOLATE			
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS	2 BRIDGE OF TERABITHIA	3 NUMBER 23	4 EPIC MOVIE	5 GHOST RIDER		

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Greenbelt Onstage — Repertory Philippines presents SONG & DANCE at REP's Globe Theater - February 9 to March 4, 2007. For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710
Ayala MUSEUM — CHINESE DIASPORA: Art Streams from the Mainland (six shows), February 15 to March 27, 2007. For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org

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RollingStone
硫黄島からの手紙
4 OSCAR NOMINATIONS INCLUDING BEST PICTURE
WINNER GOLDEN GLOBE AWARD BEST PICTURE FOREIGN LANGUAGE
"UNPRECEDENTED"
Newsweek
LETTERS FROM IWO JIMA
A CLINT EASTWOOD FILM
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‘Pan’s Labyrinth’ . . .

From page F1

Our heroine undertakes secret missions and dangerous tasks, and encounter monsters, fairy insects and wicked humans. These scenes are intercut with murderous goings-on in the military base and guerrilla warfare in the woods, building up the suspense to breaking point. The violence is relentless, but through the filmmaker’s utter artistry, what might be a desolate ending is transformed into rapture and rest.

Metaphors and ideas

The metaphoric labyrinth alludes to the Civil War, which historians refer to as “the Spanish labyrinth.” At one level, the characters are one-dimensional, standing for ideas and driven to behave in symbolic acts.

Capitán Vidal is the brutal autocrat, the embodiment of Franco’s totalitarian regime, a stand-in for all the fascists of the world. Mercedes is the hardy and wily oppositionist.

Ofelia is purity of spirit, the human personality that has to choose at a certain point whether to struggle against, or be swallowed by, a monstrous system. Pan can be seen in various ways, from the sociopolitical to the psychosexual.

The Pale Man (also played by Jones) is the Church. Del Toro, an admitted lapsed Catholic, describes it as a “devourer of children.”

The finest in this powerhouse ensemble are López and Verdú, who invest their roles with throbbing realism. Verdú should have been nominated for an Oscar as well.

GUILLERMO DEL TORO AFP

The dark fabulism of del Toro has been darkened still by various influences. In an interview with Sight and Sound magazine, del Toro acknowledges as key inspiration for this film Edwin Sidney Hartland’s book “The Science of Fairy Tales.”

He explicates his source: “This book classified fairy tales and broke down the recurring myths.”

The film has been compared to Cocteau’s “Orphée,” among others, and has been hailed as the “Citizen Kane” of fantasy cinema.

With this, del Toro, only 42, is approaching the baroque cinema of another Mexican maestro, Arturo Ripstein—where none of the recent Mexican filmmakers that we know of dares tread.

Forget “Babel.” Forget “Volver.” “El Laberinto del Fauno” is the latest genuine masterpiece, and Guillermo del Toro the newest darling to have emerged from Spanish-speaking cinema.

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THROUGH Solar Entertainment Corporation
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IN 2D
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Matinee Fee- P200 Primetime Fee- P250
1 MUSIC AND LYRICS
2 NUMBER 23
3 EPIC MOVIE
4 THE MESSENGER
5 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
6 PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS
PREMIERE CINEMA
THE PROMISE
CENTERSTAGE
GHOST RIDER

THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
CINEMA 2
MUSIC AND LYRICS
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
2 MUSIC AND LYRICS
3 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
4 GHOST RIDER
5 THE PROMISE
6 NUMBER 23
7 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
8 THE HOLIDAY
9 THE MESSENGER
10 PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS
11 EPIC MOVIE
12 GHOST RIDER

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
2 NUMBER 23
3 GHOST RIDER
4 RESERVED
5 EPIC MOVIE
6 PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS
7 THE MESSENGER
8 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
9 RESERVED
10 THE PROMISE
11 CATCH AND RELEASE
12 MUSIC AND LYRICS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 MUSIC AND LYRICS
3 THE PROMISE
4 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
5 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
6 NUMBER 23
7 GHOST RIDER
8 PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS
9 EPIC MOVIE
10 THE MESSENGER
11 THE FOUNTAIN
12 FACES OF LOVE

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 GHOST RIDER
2 EPIC MOVIE
3 NUMBER 23
4 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
5 THE PROMISE
6 MUSIC AND LYRICS
7 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
8 PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS
9 THE FOUNTAIN
THE MESSENGER

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
GHOST RIDER
PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS
3 NUMBER 23
4 EPIC MOVIE
5 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
6 THE PROMISE

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM/ WWE
3 THE PROMISE
4 GHOST RIDER
5 NUMBER 23
6 MUSIC AND LYRICS
7 THE MESSENGER
8 EPIC MOVIE
9 PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
2 EPIC MOVIE
3 THE PROMISE
4 GHOST RIDER

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
2 NUMBER 23
3 MUSIC AND LYRICS
4 EPIC MOVIE
5 THE CLEANER
6 GHOST RIDER
7 PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS
8 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
9 THE PROMISE
10 THE MESSENGER
11 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
12 THE HOLIDAY

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS
2 CHARLOTTE'S WEB
3 THE PROMISE
4 GHOST RIDER

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 GHOST RIDER
2 THE CLEANER
3 THE FOUNTAIN
4 THE PROMISE

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS
2 GHOST RIDER
3 THE PROMISE
4 EPIC MOVIE

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2 MUSIC AND LYRICS
3 GHOST RIDER
4 EPIC MOVIE
5 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
6 THE PROMISE
7 NUMBER 23
8 THE MESSENGER

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 MUSIC AND LYRICS
2 GHOST RIDER
3 ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES
4 BABEL
5 THE PROMISE
6 FACES OF LOVE

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
GHOST RIDER
2 THE PROMISE
3 BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE
4 THE FOUNTAIN

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 THE MESSENGER
2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
3 THE PROMISE
4 TENACIOUS D

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 GHOST RIDER
2 BABEL
3 THE MESSENGER
4 BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE
5 FACES OF LOVE
6 THE PROMISE

SM CIY LIPA (043) 756-7925
1 THE HOLIDAY
2 THE PROMISE
3 THE MESSENGER
4 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 CHARLOTTE'S WEB
2 ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES
3 THE MESSENGER
THE PROMISE

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 GHOST RIDER
2 THE PROMISE
3 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
4 ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES

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2 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
3 EPIC MOVIE
4 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER

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1 EPIC MOVIE
2 THE HOLIDAY
3 THE PROMISE
4 GHOST RIDER

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 RESERVED
2 GHOST RIDER
3 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
4 MUSIC AND LYRICS
5 THE MESSENGER
6 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
7 THE PROMISE
8 BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 BABEL
2 RESERVED
3 ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES
4 THE PROMISE
5 GHOST RIDER
6 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
7 RESERVED
8 THE MESSENGER

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 GHOST RIDER
2 FACES OF LOVE
3 THE PROMISE
4 THE HOLIDAY
5 THE CLEANER
6 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
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2 THE PROMISE
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2 (DOLBY) PUSUIT OF HAPPYNESS
3 (DOLBY) BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA / MUSIC AND LYRICS
4 (DOLBY) THE NUMBER 23
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) EPIC MOVIE

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 GHOST RIDER
2 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
3 THE PROMISE
4 EPIC MOVIE

starmall
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 THE PROMISE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) GHOST RIDER
5 NUMBER 23

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8904286, 5433994
1 THE PROMISE
2 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
3 GHOST RIDER
4 BLOOD CHOCOLATE

THEATRES
1 APOCALYPTO
2 THE MESSENGERS
3 THE PROMISE

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
1 THE PROMISE
2 APOCALYPTO
3 RESRVED
4 RESRVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 THE HOLIDAY
2 GHOST RIDER
3 APOCALYPTO
4 EPIC MOVIE
5 NUMBER 23
6 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
7 GHOST RIDER
8 MUSIC & LYRICS
9 THE MESSENGERS
10 THE PROMISE

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341527
1 (DOLBY) THE PROMISE
2 (DOLBY) GHOST RIDER
3 (DOLBY) EPIC MOVIE
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) EPIC MOVIE
2 GHOST RIDER
3 THE PROMISE
4 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
5 NUMBER 23

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 THE PROMISE
2 HANNIBAL RISING
3 TROIKA
4 CODNAME CLEANER

Manggahan Cinema
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1 THE PROMISE
2 GHOST RIDER
3 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 GHOST RIDER
2 APOCALYPTO

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
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2 GHOST RIDER
3 THE PROMISE
4 BABEL

Centre Plaza Cinema
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2 DÉJÀ VU

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2 THE PROMISE
3 (DOLBY) GHOST RIDER
4

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(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
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2 (DOLBY) RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 THE MESSENGER
2 THE PROMISE
CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER

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1 THE PROMISE
2 THE HOLIDAY
3 (DOLBY) THE MESSENGER
4 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

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2 THE PROMISE
3 (DOLBY) THE MESSENGER

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2 THE PROMISE

Lianas Cinema
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2 APOCALYPTO

Lianas Cinema
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2 LIGAYA KATUMBAS AY BUHAY
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4 HANNIBAL RISING

Lianas MovieCity
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2 KAKAIBANG KARISMA
3 THE PROMISE
4 LITTLE CHILDREN
5 GHOST RIDER

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 SHAOLIN VS' EVIL DEAD -2
2 APOCALYPTO
3 THE MESSENGER
4 THE PROMISE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 ENTENG KABISOTE
2 HANNIBAL RISING

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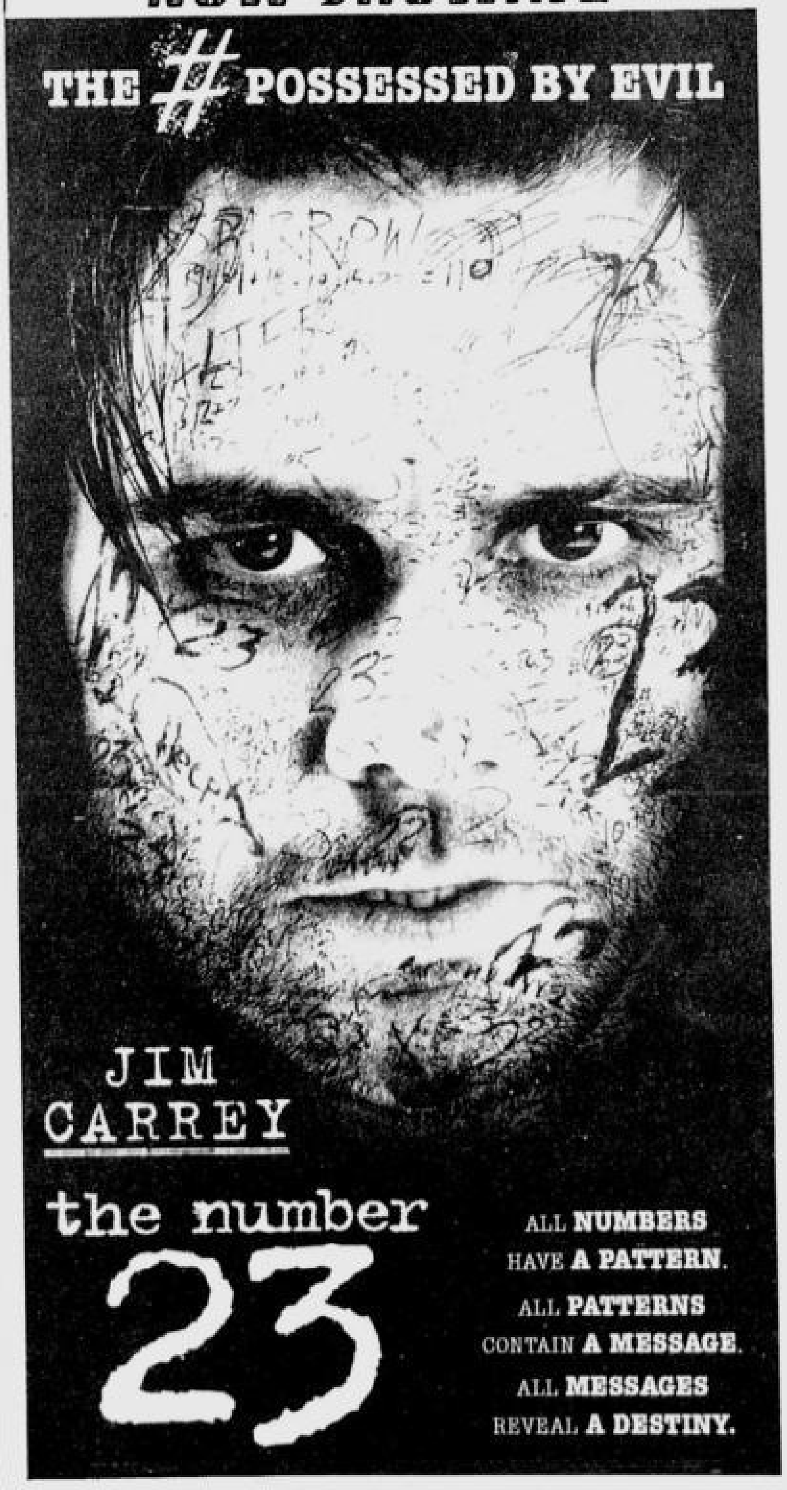

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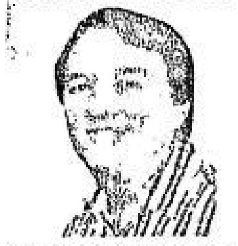


Nestor U. Torre

FOR SOMETIME NOW, WE'VE BEEN INTERested in temporarily swapping homes with a friend abroad.

Called "home exchange," this arrangement enables both parties to take extended vacations in other countries without spending a lot on hotel rooms, and has the added benefit of seeing a foreign land through a native's eyes—well, at least in his counterpart's home.

We haven't been able to get our own home exchange plan just yet, but we have viewed "The Holiday," a new film precisely about such a cross-continental arrangement—between **Kate Winslet** in Surrey, England and **Cameron Diaz** in Los Angeles, USA.

JUDE Law and Cameron Diaz in "The Holiday."

On-target portrayals

We're happy to report that the film does justice to its unusual premise and its many plot and thematic possibilities. Thanks to its leads' on-target portrayals, the situation fairly swings and sizzles along, full of intimations about the futility of regret and the need to focus instead on the following day's tantalizing prospects.

This attitude shift is encouraged by the fact that the two women, both reeling from failed romances, have extricated themselves from their respective emotional quagmires, and can thus view their miserable lives from fresh perspectives.

Midway though the film, Winslet's character realizes: "Anything can happen!" This becomes the movie's thematic points, as she and Cameron tentatively open themselves up to emotional healing and new possibilities.

Sluggish turn

To be sure, the plotting turns sluggish after a while, as the characters have a tough time exorcising their romantic demons (i.e., their cruddy former boyfriends).

But Winslet's exuberant portrayal lifts the movie to exhilarating heights, leaving Diaz's earnest performance far behind.

Happily, Winslet is joined by **Jude Law**, another Brit talent who turns in a similarly felt and vital portrayal as her brother, and Diaz's new romantic interest.

Winslet's achievement in this movie is made all the more remarkable by the fact that the story focuses mainly on Diaz's character.

Despite this obvious bias, Winslet manages to do more with less, even as her character dallies with a lesser leading man in the person of comic **Jack Black**.

Thespic plus

Aside from Winslet and Law, a third thespic plus is added to the production by **Eli Wallach**, who plays the supporting role of a retired screenwriter who finds a new friend in Winslet.

The character could easily have turned soggy and overly cute, but Wallach keeps him on even keel, and provides the wisdom and experience the film needs to become truly insightful and emphatic.

Yes, with the right attitude, even for senior citizens, anything can happen.

'Notes on A Scandal'

Two of the film world's best actresses, **Judi Dench** and **Cate Blanchett**, deliver exceptional performances in the psychological thriller, "Notes on A Scandal." The film will be shown soon exclusively at Glorietta 4 and Greenbelt 3.

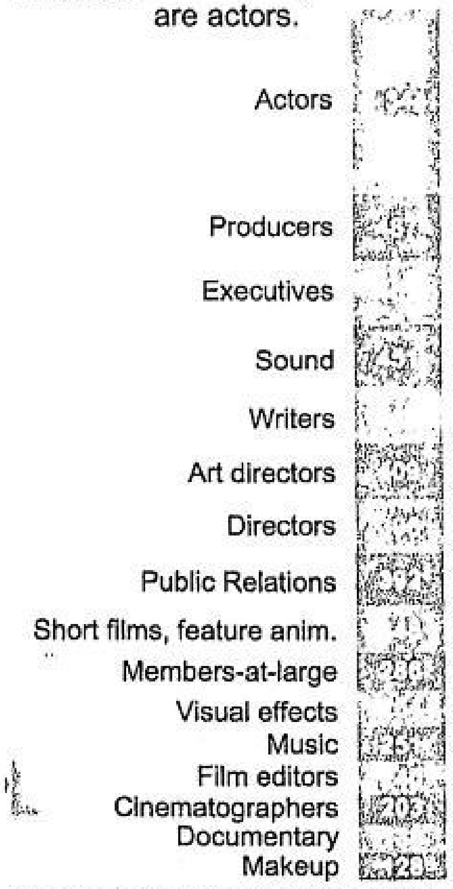
The lead actresses play two women caught up in a drama of need and betrayal. They are two teachers whose budding relationship is marred by Dench's discovery that Blanchett is having an affair with a student. As Dench threatens to expose Blanchett's secret, her own dark obsessions come tumbling to the fore, exposing the corruption at the core of each of the women's lives.

On ETC channel

"E! News" and "The Daily 10" are now seen on ETC. (Channel 52 on SkyCable) from Tuesday to Saturday, 9-10 p.m. "E! News" is hosted by **Ryan Seacrest** and **Giulians De Pandi** and covers the entertainment scene, while "The Daily 10" highlights the top 10 show biz stories of the day.

Who votes

A breakdown of voters in the Academy, of which the majority are actors.



AP

SOURCE: Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

ANNOUNCEMENT

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PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40
BRIDGE OF TERABITHIA 12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30
ASK THE DUST 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
THE PROMISE 12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40
GHOST RIDER 2:05 / 4:35 / / 7:05 / 9:50
THE MESSENGERS 1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00
MUSIC & LYRICS 1:05 / 3:15 / 5:25 / 7:35 / 9:45
THE HOLIDAY 6:50 / 9:40
NUMBER 23 2:15 / 4:40 / 7:05 / 9:30
GHOST RIDER 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00

AliMALL 5
1 EPIC MOVIE 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
2 GHOST RIDER 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
3 NUMBER 23 1:05 / 3:30 / 5:55 / 8:20
4 THE PROMISE 12:10 R4 / 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30
5 BRIDGE OF TERABITHIA 12:05 R4 / 1:20 / 3:35 / 5:50 / 8:05
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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1 EPIC MOVIE 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00 R-13
2 GHOST RIDER 2:55, 5:40, 8:35, 11:05 PG-13
3 THE NUMBER 23 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 R-18
4 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA 1:20, 3:45, 6:10 G
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS 8:35, 11:00 G

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CINEMA 4 EPIC MOVIE 10:40, 12:55, 3:10, 5:25, 7:40, 10:00 R-13
CINEMA 5 MUSIC AND LYRICS /// PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS PG-13 10:45, 1:00, 3:15 /// 5:30, 7:50, 10:10
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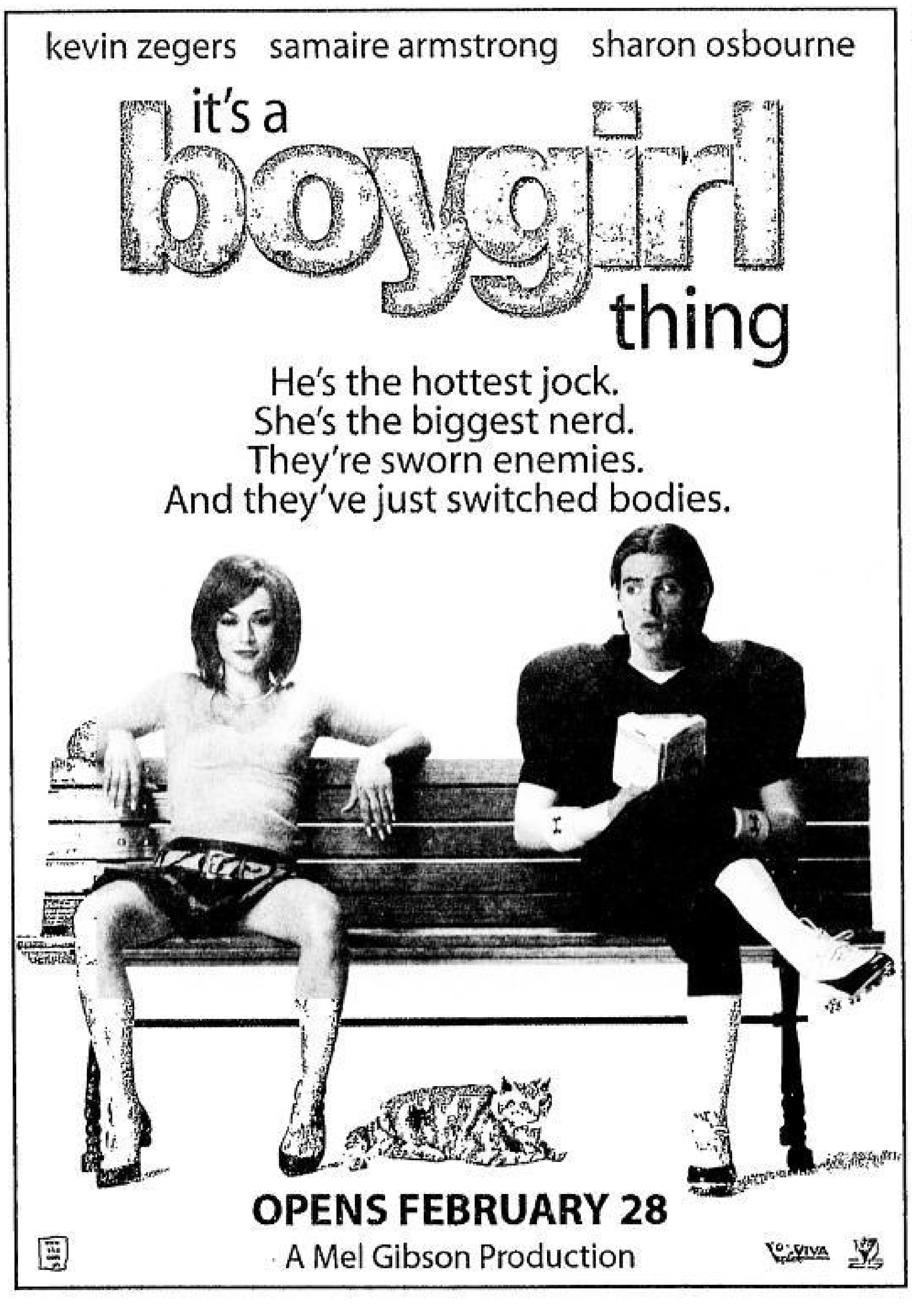

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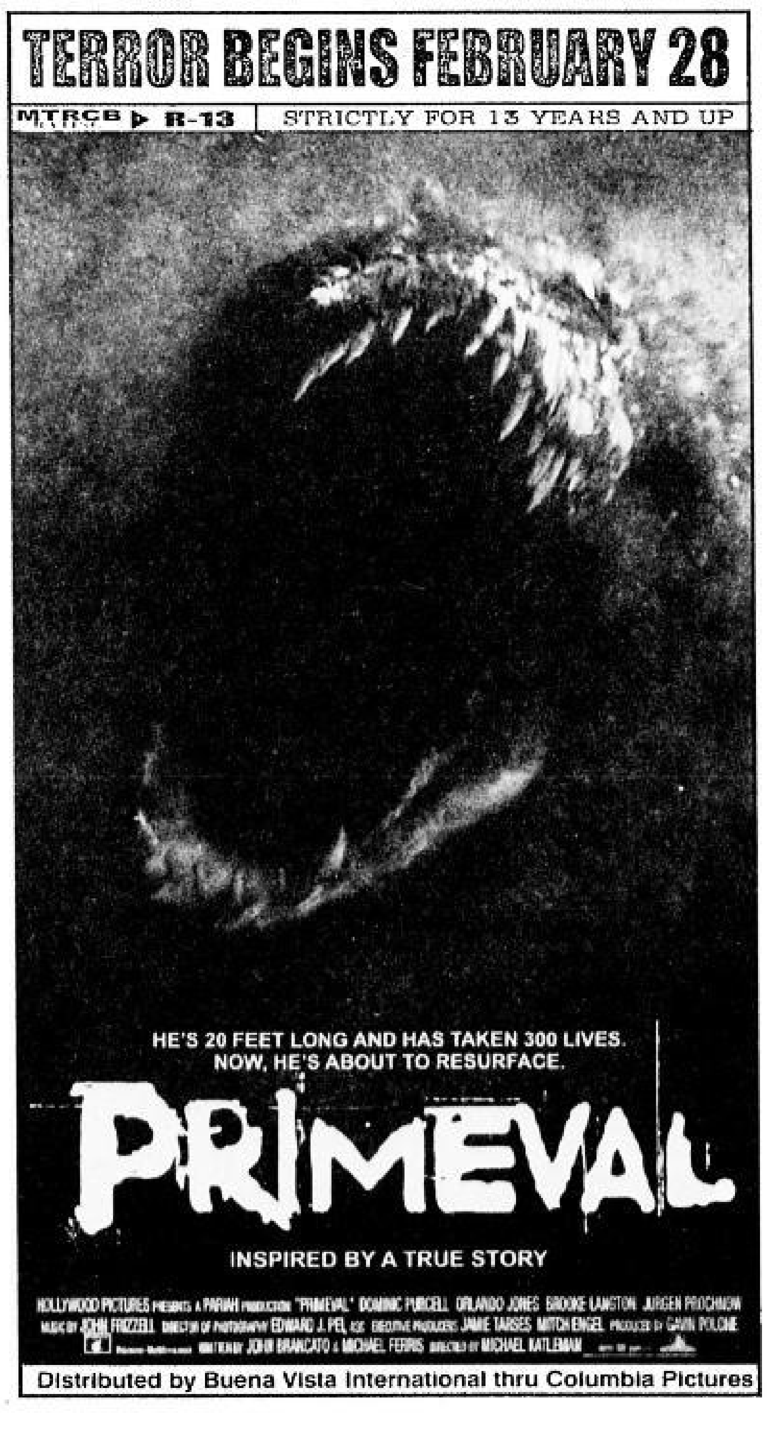

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'Man of the Year' Ben Stiller in pink shoes

RUSHES

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS—ACTOR Ben Stiller put on pink shoes, a blond wig and silver headband to strut against an Owen Wilson impersonator before claiming Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Man of the Year award.

"Just like at home, honey," Stiller said to his actress wife, Christine Taylor, as he put on the female attire during the Friday event organized by the Hasty Pudding Theatricals, the nation's oldest undergraduate drama troupe.

Stiller, 41, played along with the good-natured traditional Hasty Pudding roast, which lampooned his career. He won the award decades after dropping out of film school at the University of California, Los Angeles.

BEN STILLER with Hasty Pudding cast members. REUTERS

The awards are given to performers who have made a "lasting and impressive contribution to the world of entertainment."

"This is the closest I've ever been to Harvard," Stiller said.

"Ben Stiller has pioneered new forms of comedy," Joshua Lachter, press and publicity manager for the Hasty Pudding Theatricals, said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "When we had the opportunity to invite him, we jumped at it."

Scarlett Johansson received the Hasty Pudding Woman of the Year award last week. Last year's honorees were Halle Berry and Richard Gere.

In another interview that same day, Stiller said he'd be excited to star alongside Tom Cruise in an updated movie version of "The Hardy Boys" book series. The proposed "Hardy Men" film, not expected to go into production until next year at the earliest, would feature brothers Frank and Joe Hardy, now adults but estranged, teaming up to solve a mystery, according to entertainment press reports. *Reports from AP, Reuters*

More uncertainty

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida—A Florida judge added more uncertainty to the paternity battle over former Playboy centerfold Anna Nicole Smith's baby on Friday when he said he wasn't sure he had jurisdiction over the case. Broward County Family Court Judge Lawrence Korda said the Bahamas, where the former Playmate's 5-month-old daughter, Dannielynn, was born, was probably the proper venue for deciding who fathered the child and who should have custody. *Reuters*

Oops ...

LOS ANGELES—Britney Spears' in-again out-again rehab saga found her back in a Malibu facility on Thursday, halting an emergency court hearing in which estranged husband Kevin Federline planned to discuss custody of their two children. Celebrity web sites reported that the pop singer returned late on Wednesday to the Promises rehabilitation center, which she had fled earlier in the day after less than 24 hours of treatment. *Reuters*

PEOPLE dressed as movie characters on Hollywood Blvd. this week. AFP

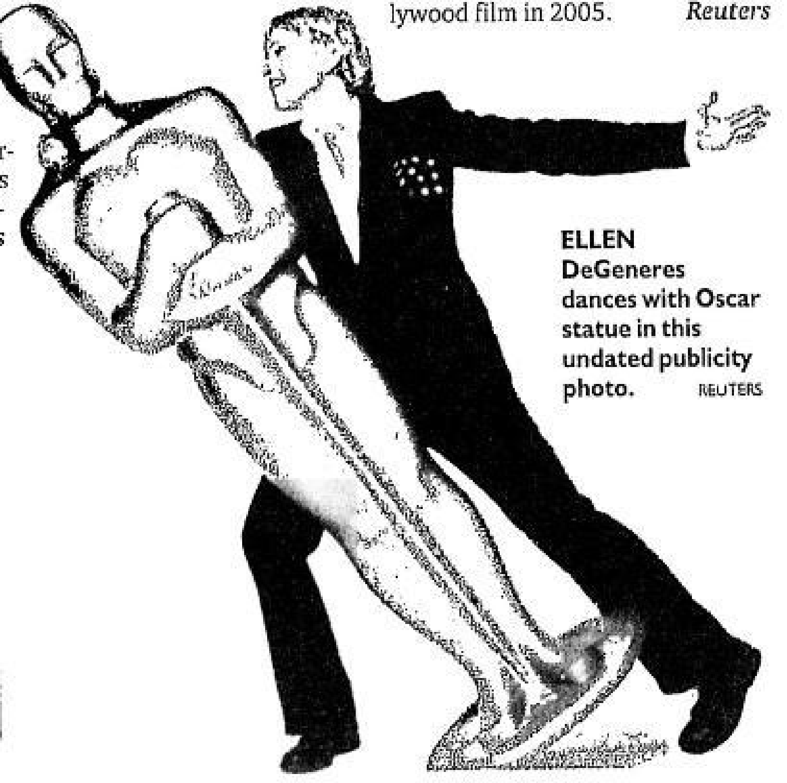
A gentler tone

LOS ANGELES—After two years of ceremonies emceed by anti-establishment provocateurs, the Oscars this year turns to a kinder, gentler comic and TV talk show host with a flair for putting those around her at ease. Ellen DeGeneres, who made broadcast history 10 years ago as the first openly gay lead character on US prime-time television, is headed for one of Hollywood's most prestigious assignments as only the second woman to be solo host of the Academy Awards in the Oscars' 79 years.

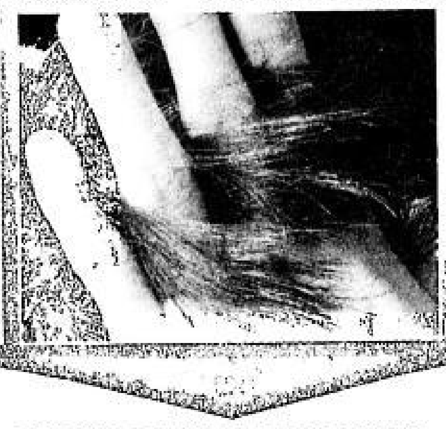
The job is one of the most prestigious and demanding assignments in Hollywood. DeGeneres is bound to be judged against a wide range of previous performances, some triumphant, others disastrous. *Reuters*

'Producers' closes

NEW YORK—"The Producers," Mel Brooks' record-setting musical about two men trying to create a Broadway flop, will close in New York on April 22 after more than 2,500 performances, the show's public relations firm said on Friday. The musical comedy, created from Brooks' 1968 movie, won a record-breaking 12 Tony awards after it opened on Broadway in 2001 with Nathan Lane starring as scheming theatrical producer Max Bialystock and Matthew Broderick as his wily accountant Leo Bloom. The musical led to worldwide stage productions and a follow-up major Hollywood film in 2005. *Reuters*



ELLEN DeGeneres dances with Oscar statue in this undated publicity photo. REUTERS



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